

# War cabinet escapes in audacious IRA attack on 10 Downing Street

## Yard hunts two mortar bombers

### Terrorists flee as van explodes

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard was last night hunting a two-man terrorist team which bombed 10 Downing Street with mortars from an elderly van as the war cabinet met yesterday morning. The attack was one of the most audacious ever carried out by the IRA.

One bomb exploded in the garden breaking windows, disrupting the meeting and throwing Whitehall into panic. Two other bombs landed without exploding in Mountbatten Gardens, behind the Foreign Office.

Four people, including two policemen, were slightly injured in the incident, which brought the IRA as close to the heart of British government as the Brighton bomb in 1984. In the aftermath of the blast, ministers began an urgent examination of security in Whitehall and Westminster.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary said, in a Commons statement yesterday afternoon, that there had to be a limit to safety measures and acknowledged that security had already been improved. "If one tried to make the whole of central London a cordon sanitaire, it would be a concession to terrorism."

However, he said: "We must all be on guard at all times against attacks from a variety of sources."

In a statement from Dublin last night claiming responsibility for the attack, the IRA said: "The operation had been planned over a number of months. Its inception pre-dates both John Major's coming to power and the beginning of British involve-

ment in the Gulf war. Whether the Gulf war goes on for weeks or years, let the British government understand that, while nationalist people in the six counties are forced to live under British rule, then the British Cabinet will be forced to meet in bunkers."

As a national police hunt began for the bombers, who vanished on a motorcycle into the snow, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist branch and the national co-ordinator of terrorist investigations, told a conference in London that the attack had been daring and well-planned.

"It is an example of how good and versatile this organisation is," he said, but added that the plan had been badly executed. "These mortars are extremely dangerous and very inaccurate. It is a typical example of a cowardly attack which could have caused death or severe injury."

The terrorists had taken advantage of the fact that people's attention had been focused on the Gulf war. He denied, however, any suggestion that the IRA might have been acting for the Iraqis or Arab terrorist groups.

The terrorists struck just after 10am as Whitehall was covered by a snow shower. David Mellor, the Treasury chief secretary, was briefing the war cabinet on his visit to the Gulf to seek financial help with the costs of Britain's Gulf war efforts.

A white Ford transit van, bought in London six months ago, was driven up to the junction of Horse Guards Avenue and Whitehall close to the Ministry of Defence.

The roof of the van had been removed and inside a crude mortar unit using metal piping. The roof had been put back in place, secured with tape, to avoid suspicion. The van was abandoned at an angle. The driver ran from the van and kept on to the pillion seat of a waiting motorcycle, which then sped off towards the Embankment. No parking is allowed in Whitehall and as a policeman went towards the van three bombs were fired through the roof. Within seconds the van exploded in a ball of fire.

One bomb exploded in the



Seconds after the attack a man, thought to be a police explosives expert, clears people away from the burning van from which the mortars were launched



Churchill-Coleman: "A cowardly attack"

garden at the rear of 10 Downing Street, creating a bang that could be heard up to 12 miles away. Windows in Buckingham Palace and Clarence House shook.

The bomb landed in the communal garden behind Nos 10, 11, and 12 Downing Street,

blasting out a cherry tree about 50ft from where the prime minister was sitting. Windows were shattered throughout the block. The cabinet room windows, made of shatter-proof glass, shattered as their frames buckled.

As Whitehall collected its wits Mr Major calmly suggested that his colleagues should adjourn somewhere else. The ministers and officials went through their bomb drill, first crouching down and then leaving the room without stopping to collect their papers.

A civil servant who was in the cabinet room said: "There was a very loud bang, two plops, and a cold draught. When it happens you are surprised. You look around and find nobody has been hurt and you just get the hell out of it quickly."

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## Major expresses contempt

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major, having faced the first attempt on his life after little more than two months in office, told MPs yesterday: "It was a deliberate attack to kill the Cabinet and to do damage to our democratic system of government."

He added: "It failed - nor in any circumstances could it have succeeded."

The prime minister, who was cheered when he appeared in the Commons during home office questions, had been telephoned from California shortly before by Margaret Thatcher, offering her sympathy. He was also telephoned by Andrew Paddy O'Rourke, the Irish ambassador, who expressed his disgust at the attack.

Like the other members of the war cabinet, Mr Major had been stunned into silence at

the time of the explosion, but remembered his bomb drill and first ducked down beneath the table, then left the room within seconds.

In the Commons later, he spoke of his "contempt" for the attackers. The IRA's tactics, he said, had failed to change government policies "by one single iota" and would not do so now. "Our determination to beat terrorism cannot be beaten by terrorism and I hope that is fully understood everywhere."

The cabinet meets regularly on a Thursday morning, and Mr Major said it was clear from the timing of the attack that it was a deliberate attempt to murder him and his senior colleagues. He added: "The IRA's record is one of failure in every respect and that failure, I think, was

demonstrated yet again today. It's about time they learned that democracies cannot be intimidated by terrorism and we rightly treat them with contempt."

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, joined in the condemnation of the attack. Mr Kinnock said it was "vicious and futile" and would not "intimidate nor divert anyone in Government or opposition in this democracy". He expressed his relief that so little harm had been caused. Mr Ashdown said it was an "outrage" which would fail to deflect government policies.

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## Icy wind expected to bring more misery

By RICHARD DUCE

SIBERIAN weather conditions will grip much of Britain again today and drivers are warned to stay off the roads after yesterday's blizzards left thousands of commuters to endure a lengthy and often hazardous journey home.

After a day of deaths and misery on the roads, conditions today are expected to be even worse as icy winds from Russia continue to drive across much of England. The bitterly cold weather has spurred the Government to ease the conditions under which people qualify for increased social security benefits to pay for fuel only if the cold weather spans seven consecutive days.

John Major, the prime minister, said the qualification period would be waived in view of the exceptional weather, and the £5 a week payment would be increased to £6 immediately.

The AA yesterday reported blizzard conditions and reduced visibility on motorways in the south with some routes looking like car parks as traffic ground to a halt. At one stage there was a nine-mile tailback on the M62 in greater Manchester.

With temperatures falling to rise above minus 5C in the south yesterday the message from both the London Weather Centre and the AA was: "It will get worse before it gets better." Forecasters predict more heavy snowfalls and the cold spell to last at least another five days.

All motorways were only passable with care last night and roads across the Pennines were blocked with the exception of the M62. Motorways around London were also badly affected. The M2 in Kent was down to single lane traffic.

Much of Scotland experienced relatively mild weather as temperatures hovered around zero but in England the lowest recorded temperature was minus 12C at Gatwick airport and in Kent a 12in snowfall was recorded. Snow fell persistently in much of the south, with lighter showers in the north.

The AA had to deal with double the number of emergency calls and advised people to stock up with plenty of anti-freeze and take blankets with them in case of breakdown.

## Rates hopes boost shares

City investors embarked on another massive spending spree in the stock market, convinced that a cut in bank base rates is on the way. The FT-SE 100 index surged 48.9 points, or 2.2 per cent, to 2,437.7, its highest level since August and 600 million shares changed hands in active trading. Page 21  
Market report, page 27

## Mandela threat

Winnie Mandela, the wife of the African National Congress deputy president, issued a chilling threat to whites to stay out of a black township where a dozen people have been killed and scores made homeless in deadly clashes since the weekend. Page 11

## Gatt plea

Leaders of more than 60 of the world's largest companies have appealed to governments to save the stalled Uruguay round of international talks from collapse and prevent a trade war. Page 21

## Olympic hope

The resignation of a rival seems to have cleared the way for London to bid for the 2000 Olympic Games under the leadership of Seb Coe. Page 38

## Iran plays safe on Gulf conflict

By HAZHEM TEMOURIAN IN LONDON AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IRAN is privately pressing the allies to prosecute the war against Iraq vigorously while in public pressing for a ceasefire.

The double track policy by the Iranian leadership has been confirmed by both Middle Eastern and European diplomats.

"The message we are getting from Tehran is don't pay any attention to what we say publicly, just clobber them. Don't agree to a ceasefire," said one Western diplomat. The diplomatic revelations are the first confirmation that Tehran is adopting a carrot and stick policy toward Baghdad.

The Iranian leadership is now playing host to a series of special visitors. President Ali

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the foreign minister of Turkey, Mr Kucukcubasi, while the Soviet deputy foreign minister Mr Aleksander Belonogov held talks with Iranian foreign ministry officials. There were also reports that President Mitterrand of France had made direct contact with the leadership.

The diplomatic activity now centred on Tehran emanates from Mr Rafsanjani's announcement at a press conference on Monday that he was ready to meet Saddam Hussein and hold talks with the United States in order to bring "the destruction of Iraq" to an end as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Bush administration has assured

Iran that American troops fighting Iraq will be withdrawn from the region as soon as possible after the war. Washington made the commitment in a message sent to Iran through the Swiss embassy, which represents U.S. interests in Tehran. The message also said that the United States had no intention of destroying Iraq, killing civilians or attacking religious sites. But the newspaper *Tehran Times* stressed that Iran cannot rely solely on Mr Bush's commitment and because of this Tehran is maintaining a neutral stance and continuing efforts to prevent what it called the expansionist ambitions of both the belligerent parties.

Iran denounced Iraq's invasion of Kuwait at the time but is also demanding the withdrawal of American and other Western forces from the Gulf. President Rafsanjani last week sent peace proposals to the Iraqi leader that he said could serve as the basis for a settlement. But these appear to have had a frosty reception in the Iraqi capital.

## Ulster talks near to breakdown

THE initiative by Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, to create new political structures in the province appeared close to breakdown last night.

James Moynihan, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, his Democratic Unionist counterpart, emerged from a meeting with Mr Brooke to say there was "nothing left to talk about". They blamed the likely failure of the talks on the attitude of the Irish government under Charles Haughey.

The Northern Ireland Office would not accept the initiative had foundered, but did not disguise the difficulties.

## Strong-arm tactics used to curb war reporting

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

EARLIER this week an experienced news-agency photographer, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, spent more than six hours in the Saudi desert surrounded by six armed US marines who threatened to shoot him if he left his car. "We have orders from above to make this pool system work," one of the officers explained.

The action was taken because the photographer had tried to operate independently of a system under which Pentagon and defence ministry minders hope to control all media coverage of the Gulf war.

Angered by the behaviour of reporters determined to present their own, rather than the official version of the war, the military have redoubled their threats to seize the accreditation

papers and visas of any newswoman failing to toe the line. Some US soldiers at road blocks throughout Saudi Arabia have been ordered to remove a wheel from journalists' cars until Saudi security men arrive to take them away.

In a more subtle attempt at intimidation, reporters from *The Times* and the *Daily Mirror* were told that it would be "unhelpful" to report comments by representative British soldiers who chose to use the opportunity of a visit by one of the press "pools" to speak out about the widespread anti-Islamic feeling inside an army which has had to abide by strict Muslim rules despite their frequent breach by the Saudis and Kuwaitis for whom they are fighting. Whitehall also made a partially successful attempt to prevent newspapers and television reporting that

the fears of Iraqi germ warfare are now so great that all British frontline troops are being given a crash series of jobs against pneumonic plague.

Although news of the immunisation had already been broken, the ministry's justification was that the stories would assist President Saddam Hussein. Many thought the real reason was to prevent the British public from knowing the nightmarish sort of conflict the Desert Rats are soon to face.

Even before the land war has begun and allied casualties have started to soar, it has become clear to reporters on the ground in Saudi Arabia that the fears about the operation of tight military censorship originally expressed by Burt Osborne, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors were well founded. Many examples of interference

have occurred well beyond the criteria of "operational security" which the great majority of the 700 Western reporters in Saudi Arabia would apply comply with. Reports have been deliberately delayed and despatches altered to reflect allied forces in a better light. An American reporter wrote that pilots were "giddy" upon return from F-117 Stealth fighter missions over Iraq. He later found that the adjective had been altered to "proud".

Another who reported that Marines had been ordered to add more sandbags to protective bunkers was told by the military public relations specialist (one accompanies all American "combat pools") that "asked" would be a better word. Buoyed by a recent poll that showed overwhelming US public support for

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## RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE  
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

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# A crude and lethal weapon to thwart the security forces

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE security service and Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch have feared an IRA mortar attack against a military or establishment target since 1988, when the latest mainland campaign began.

The mortars may be crude and home-made but they have become an effective weapon in the IRA's armoury. Only the armed wing of the Basque separatists is thought to have used a similar weapon and it may be no coincidence that

IRA and Eta personnel trained and worked together in the early 1970s.

The mortars, built by IRA armours and bomb-makers on either side of the border, were probably first developed as an effective way of bypassing the growing fortification of army and police posts in the early 1970s. As the security forces in Ulster developed more sophisticated defences, the IRA found a relatively simple way of pressing attacks

from an unexpected quarter. Instead of having to drive or leave car bombs or other devices close to well-guarded posts, the IRA could operate at a safe distance from the cover of surrounding streets or countryside.

They have been used in 67 attacks in the past 16 years and 350 mortar bombs have been fired. Eleven Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and reservists and one soldier have been killed in assaults on RUC stations and military posts. Another 163 people have been hurt.

In the worst single attack, nine RUC officers and reservists were killed when six bombs hit the roof of temporary buildings inside the police complex at Newry. Many other stations in the province have been attacked over the years, prompting elaborate protection, including fencing, screens, netting and strengthened roofs.

There was no sign that the IRA would move on the mainland from traditional attacks until police stumbled on a bomb factory in a flat in Clapham, south London, a few days before Christmas 1988. Among explosives, bomb-making material and equipment, they discovered a special type of rubber ring to be used in the firing of mortars from a vehicle. The rings absorb the pressure of the firing and reduce damage to the mortar platform. Police were shaken, aware of the damage mortars could inflict.

Searches also uncovered coded paperwork that proved to have been written by Nicholas Mullen, jailed last year for 30 years as an IRA fighter. Mullen had drawn up weapon lists that included mortars and calculations for firing. The investigation unearthed what would have been the factory for making the mortars. Mullen, posing as a sheet-metal worker trying to set up his own business, had hired a workshop in Leytonstone, east London, in 1988.

With the factory exposed and Mullen in jail, the IRA's plans seemed to have foundered. Scotland Yard could only hope that tight police patrols in the most vulnerable areas of the capital would stop the attacks in time.

## WORLD REACTION

### Thatcher phones message of dismay

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MARGARET Thatcher said in Los Angeles yesterday that she had heard of the attack at 6.30am and had immediately telephoned Mr Major to express her horror. Asked if she thought Downing Street was safe, the former prime minister said: "Terrorists can always make a surprise attack. There is no way in which you can protect against everything."

Her first reaction had been to ask whether anyone had been injured. Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, sent a telegram to Mr Major. He said that he had learnt of the attack "with horror and dismay", and was relieved to hear that no one had been seriously hurt. "This attempted assassination underlines again the necessity to fight with determination against terrorism and to strengthen our co-operation in this area."

Mr Major is due to meet the chancellor in Bonn on Monday, when they will discuss joint measures against terrorism.

The attack was condemned by politicians in the Irish Republic. Jim O'Keefe, justice spokesman for the main opposition Fine Gael party, called on the Irish police to provide Scotland Yard with any



A policeman on guard outside No 10 yesterday

assistance possible in tracking down those responsible. Dick Spring, leader of the Irish Labour party, said that such incidents amounted to attacks on democracy. "It is to be sincerely hoped that there is no Irish involvement," he said. "If that hope proves to be unfounded, no stone must be left unturned to bring the culprits to justice."

## IRA spy jailed by Dublin court

An IRA spy who concealed a listening device in police headquarters in Dublin and recorded secret communications was yesterday jailed for five years by the anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court.

Matthew O'Treasaigh, aged 27, was convicted of being a member of the IRA and of obtaining information on police operations in a manner prejudicial to the safety of the state.

He was arrested when police raided a flat overlooking Irish police headquarters.

Robert Russell, aged 33, who escaped from the Maze prison and was extradited from the republic two years ago, yesterday won his appeal against a 20-year sentence. It was his second appeal and he will be free in three weeks. Russell was sentenced in 1981 for attempting to murder an RUC officer.

## CIVIL LIBERTIES Scapegoat fear for innocent parties

By ROBIN YOUNG

YESTERDAY'S attack highlighted the need to ensure that innocent people were not made scapegoats of security operations, the general secretary of Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties, said yesterday.

Andrew Puddephatt said: "It is at times like this that it is important not to panic into seeking scapegoats and starting witch-hunts, but to remember what it is we believe in and are trying to protect: the democratic process and a judicial system in which evidence is produced in court and is open to challenge. If we depart from that it is a victory for the terrorists, not for democracy."

Mr Puddephatt said that the judicial system had gone wrong in the past after IRA bombings. Its shortcomings were exposed at present in the handling of the cases of Iranian and Palestinians who had been arrested and threatened with deportation as a result of the Gulf war.

Jane Coker, the solicitor who represented Abbas Cheblak and Ali El Saleh, two Palestinians who were released from Pentonville prison on Wednesday night, said that their decision in their cases was no vindication of the system. "It was support that their friends were able to win from the press and public which secured their release, and not the Home Office advisory panel. We do not know, and never will know, what the panel said," Miss Coker said.

Those released had not received apologies or explanations, or any guarantee that they might not be re-arrested. There were still about 50 detainees in prison.



After the explosion: 11am in the normally thronged Parliament Square yesterday, and barely a passer-by to be seen

## HOW IT WAS DONE

### Too much sugar in recipe for death

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRA pinch of sugar added "for luck" to the explosive charge that sent home-made mortar bombs hurtling over Whitehall towards Downing Street may have saved the lives of the war cabinet.

A tiny miscalculation by the IRA gang meant that the mortar flew over the roof of Number 10 rather than landing on the rear room where John Major and his war cabinet were meeting. The Mark Ten mortar, as the security services have

called the weapon, has been in use for the past 15 years and was developed by the IRA as a cheap and effective way of hurling explosives over about 250 yards from the comparative security of a van.

The 3ft-long metal tubes from which the mortars are fired are cut from oxy-acetylene cylinders that have walls thick enough to withstand the explosive force of the missile. The cylinders are welded onto a steel girder to provide a solid base plate. A simple explosive device, including a common fertiliser and sugar, is rammed into the bottom of the aiming

tube. That is ignited, possibly by a car sparkplug, and explodes with a force that the IRA hopes to have calculated accurately.

On top of the charge is a "mortar" made from fire extinguishers or oxygen cylinders. The mortar is packed with Semtex or about 40lb of explosives, known to the security services as "co-op sugar" and containing fertiliser, sugar and diesel oil. Too much of any one element in the bomb or the detonator can lead to a blowback that would kill the men trying to fire the mortars.

## SINN FEIN RULING

### Law lords uphold broadcasting ban on paramilitary groups

By FRANCES GIBS, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's ban on live television and radio interviews with members of terrorist organisations, including the IRA and the Ulster Defence Association, was unanimously upheld by the House of Lords yesterday.

The ban, according to one law lord, Lord Bridge of Harwich, was not only reasonable, it was surprising that its restriction was "of such limited scope". Lord Bridge, a former chairman of the Security Commission, said: "There is no restriction at all on the matter which may be broadcast, only on the manner of its presentation. The viewer may see the terrorist's face and hear his words provided only that they are not spoken in his own voice."

Five law lords dismissed an appeal in which six broadcasting journalists and a press union employee had sought to challenge the legality of the ban imposed in October 1988 by Douglas Hurd, then the home secretary.

Lord Bridge said he found it

impossible to say that the secretary of state "exceeded the limits of his discretion. In any civilised and law-abiding society the defeat of the terrorist is a public interest of the first importance."

Another law lord, Lord Templeman, added that the home secretary had not abused or exceeded his powers. "The interference with freedom of expression is minimal and the reasons given by the home secretary are compelling."

Campaigners said after the judgment that they would fight on and take the case to the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Frances D'Souza, director of Article 19, the international centre on censorship, said: "We find this judgment shocking and a sad reflection of the low regard which this government seems to have for international human rights law. We will be taking this case forward to Europe where we expect it will have a very good chance of success."

Anthony Barnett, co-ordinator of Charter 88, said the ruling highlighted "the unaccountable and unacceptable power wielded by ministers of the crown in the British system of government".

The case was supported by the National Union of Journalists and the Broadcasting Union. The journalists had claimed the restriction was unlawful, perverse and repre-

sented an unjustified interference with freedom of speech.

Lord Bridge said, however, that in any civilised and law-abiding society the defeat of the terrorist was a public interest of the first importance that might justify some restriction on the freedom of terrorists and their supporters to spread their cause.

Although he understood criticisms of the ban, Lord Bridge said the complaints fell far short of showing that the home secretary had acted unreasonably in concluding that the ban was justified by the need to combat terrorism. "What is perhaps surprising is that the restriction imposed is of such limited scope."

Lord Bridge said the minister had decided it was necessary to deny to the terrorist and his supporters the opportunity to speak directly to the public through the most influential of all the media, and that justified some interference with editorial freedom.

Lord Templeman said the minister believed live appearances of terrorist members and supporters caused outrage and fear, gave a false impression of the strength and legitimacy of terrorism and thus encouraged this "foul crime". Mr Hurd had not abused or exceeded his powers in imposing the ban under the terms of the Broadcasting Act 1981.

"The broadcasting authorities and journalists are naturally resentful of any limitation on their right to present a programme in such a manner as they think fit," Lord Templeman said. "But the interference with freedom of expression is minimal and the reasons given by the home secretary are compelling."

Lord Roskill, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry agreed in dismissing the appeal with costs.

The journalists who mounted the challenge were: Don Brind, a BBC producer, Fred Emery, a television journalist, Alexander Graham, an editor and producer, Victoria Leonard, a producer with LBC, Scarlett McGwire, a broadcaster and former National Union of Journalists president and broadcaster, and John Pilger, the newspaper and television journalist, with Thomas Nash, an employee of the NUJ.

The six, Richard McKenny, Patrick Hill, Billy Power, Johnny Walker, Gerry Hunter and Hugh Callaghan, were not at yesterday's hearing. All have been in custody since their arrest in November 1974 after the bombing of two public houses in Birmingham. Twenty-one people died and 162 were injured in what was the worst IRA atrocity on the mainland. The six received 21 life sentences in 1975 after being found guilty of murder.

Richard McKenny's brother, Paddy, said last night: "The DPP seems determined to drag it out to the bitter end, even though the points he is going to fight on are already torn to shreds."



Bridge: "Restriction is of such limited scope"

## BIRMINGHAM SIX

### Scientific evidence dropped but appeal to be contested

THE Director of Public Prosecutions made clear yesterday that he intends to continue to contest the appeal by the Birmingham Six, even though he will no longer rely on the scientific evidence that formed a major plank of the case against them.

During a preliminary hearing at the Court of Appeal, Graham Boal, for the DPP, said he was keeping an open mind but that it was his intention that the appeal should continue in the normal way.

In a move expected by the six and those who have campaigned for their release, Mr Boal announced: "It is right that I should make clear that, while of course this will be a matter for the court to decide, the DPP will be submitting that the scientific evidence, in the light of work which has been done, can no longer form the basis for any argument that these convictions are safe and satisfactory."

Lawyers for the six challenged the Crown to say whether it was still relying on evidence given by former Detective Superintendent George Reddy, who led the enquiry into the bombings, and four other West Midlands detectives about alleged confessions by four of the six.

Michael Mansfield, QC, for

five of the men, asked whether the Crown accepted that there was prima facie evidence to suggest that the credibility of those officers, "and possibly a great many more", could no longer be relied on. He called on the Crown to disclose to the defence, as a matter of urgency, records of interviews with the officers made during the enquiry by Devon and Cornwall police into the investigation of the case. Disclosure might reveal "the inevitable inference" that notes taken of interviews were not contemporaneous.

James Wood, for the sixth man, said he drew comfort from the Crown's announcement that it would not rely on the scientific evidence. The question remained of whether the Crown intended to present Mr Reddy and other officers as credible witnesses when they had been "implicated in forgery and perjury" in relation to the confessions.

"If the Crown does propose to rely on them as witnesses of truth then it is essential that we have disclosure of the interviews with those officers now," Mr Wood said.

Mr Boal said that not all the details were in the DPP's possession. He could not say whether the Crown intended to rely on the officers' credibil-

## SATURDAY Tales from the heart market

St Valentine's Day has nothing to do with St Valentine but it is bound up with hate and other ugliness. Sarah Jane Checkland finds proof in the art market that there is more than love to February 14

WEEKEND LIVING

## Inappropriate, that's the word



Tina Brown explains to Alan Franks why the party of the year for the magazine of the decade has fallen victim, in wartime, to the rather un-American state of inappropriateness

SATURDAY REVIEW

## Sex and the children

Richard Davenport-Hines argues that controversial changes to the Dutch laws on the age of consent serve to draw attention to muddled British attitudes

SATURDAY REVIEW

## She can take it with her

Lady Baring ("basically I am a beg lady") never goes anywhere without lots of her "bumph". She talks about Hampshire weekend

WEEKEND LIVING

## A special offer from Scotland

Readers have the chance to buy a 12-year-old malt specially bottled for *The Times*, plus some salmon to go with it

SATURDAY REVIEW

*The Times* on Saturday: hard news, fine writing, informed comment

## BLACK & DECKER SAFETY NOTICE

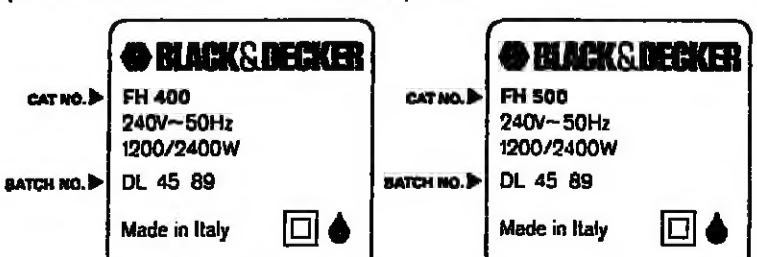
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This notice is only relevant to two models, FH400 and FH500 products purchased over the past two years with batch numbers as follows:

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After the attack: Police keep clear of the burning van used as a launch pad for the mortar bomb attack, left, and, right, tapes beneath a statue of Winston Churchill bar traffic from a snow-covered Whitehall



MARG APPLAND

THE WITNESSES

# 'You just get the hell out of it quickly'

By RAY CLANCY, QUENTIN COWDRY, MICHAEL HORSNELL AND PETER VICTOR

It was the uncontrolled rattle of teacups in the defence ministry canteen that alerted Whitehall to the unthinkable. On the other side of the road, the war cabinet, normally shielded from external clamour, temporarily adjourned its business. The rude interruption of an IRA explosion led John Major to remark: "I think we had better start again somewhere else." Evacuation began of nearby offices, and at Buckingham Palace the windows shook.

Within an hour, beyond the police tapes that stopped everything moving, one of the busiest roads in London looked like a scene from a Christmas card, its virgin snow strangely untrammelled by traffic. Only the footprints of forensic scientists could be seen from a vantage point in Trafalgar Square, and those carrying away cartons of debris for analysis.

As the fiction of a terrorist mortar bomb attack on the seat-of government became reality, a crater about 4ft wide appeared in the back garden of No 10, together with enough work to bring a smile to the face of glaziers. The force of the blast, about 40ft from the back wall, scorched the rear of No 10. The windows of No 11 were damaged, and debris from the three bombs rained down on surrounding streets.

A civil servant who was in the Cabinet room said: "There was a very loud bang, two plops, and a cold draught, a blast of cold air if you like. When it happens you are surprised. You look around and find nobody has been hurt and you just get the hell out of it quickly."

The Cabinet Office windows were shattered, but they are specially treated and no glass entered the room where the foreign secretary, the chancellor, the defence secretary, the Attorney-general, the Treasury chief secretary, the chief of the defence staff and the prime minister were discussing with others the Gulf.

Less than a quarter of a mile away a white Ford Transit van, used as the launch pad for the most spectacular IRA attack since the 1984 Brighton hotel bombing, was left looking like an opened baked-bean can, according to one witness.

Several men working on the roof of Banqueting House in Whitehall were taking a coffee break when they heard the first explosion and assumed the scaffolding they had just erected had collapsed. Andy Strain, aged 32, a scaffolder from Bermondsey, south-east London, ran into the street with his workmates.

"We scrambled out and heard another tremendous bang," he said. "There was an old-style Transit van with the back doors wide open and what looked like carpet hanging out. The roof had been blown out. It was sticking up like an open baked-bean can. It looked as if they had blown it up, there was black smoke everywhere."

Lars Lindstrom, from Matfors, in Sweden, was staying in the Royal Horse Guards Hotel and ran out into Whitehall on hearing the explosion. "The van was on fire. I saw flames and smoke and then there was a couple of small explosions inside the van."

"The back doors of the van had been thrown open together with the left side door. I saw what looked to be clothes, red and yellow, hanging out of the back. The police were running away from the van; well, they were walking very quickly."

A 50-year-old civil servant, who did not wish to be named, said that he had been in a building nearby. "These two objects, what looked to me, like Roman candles were on a patch of grass in Horse Guards Parade, between the end of Downing Street and the corner of the Foreign Office, giving off flames and smoke. The flames were about 4ft high, with black and brown smoke."

A policeman at the scene remarked that the devices had been too "bloody accurate" for comfort.

The moment the mortar fired, just after 10am, was witnessed by Herb Greer, a freelance journalist aged 60, from Manchester. "The first explosion was quite small, but that was immediately followed by a much bigger one," he said. "Flames shot out of the van's roof and from the driver's side. All I could see was flames, but two workmen who were crouching down for cover on the pavement said they saw rockets going towards Downing Street."

The detonation of the first bomb was felt by David Parnham, aged 37, an electrician of Chingford, Essex, as he drove down Horse Guards Road. "The car rocked with the force of the explosion. My first thought was that something was badly wrong with the car, but the next second I saw two canisters coming over the wall at the back of Downing Street. But they didn't seem to explode — they just gave off a kind of sulphurous smoke," he said.

"I can't believe this has happened. It is just like a novel," said Jayne Taylor, aged 20, who was walking through Parliament Square when the mortars were fired. "I heard three bangs, sort of whooshes really, then there was a much louder explosion. People started running along Whitehall. I followed them. There was a van on fire. Flames were shooting out through the roof and back doors about 20ft into the air."

David Parnham, aged 37, an electrician, said: "I saw something flying through the air; it was a cylinder going towards No 10. There was a loud explosion and debris was coming down. Two other pieces, about 4ft long, landed on the grass nearby. They didn't seem to explode but rather burst into flames. They just missed another car. The driver was very shocked. He got out and just ran."

Pravin Patel, 41, was driving his number 24 bus, with about 40 passengers, along Whitehall. "There was a big bang. I stopped. I saw a man running away. A missile came out of the roof of the Ford transit van. Then after five seconds I saw another one in the same manner and I saw a big fire going out as well."

Mr Patel added: "We could feel it in the bus."

The Welsh secretary, David Hunt, was a prisoner in his Whitehall office for a time, unable to attend the full Cabinet meeting called afterwards.

"Their families can at least be reassured that, for those who do suffer, the treatment and facilities standing by at this and other hospitals are of the very best."

## Visitors hear the blasts

A GROUP of Hong Kong legislators were in an ante-room at the Foreign Office about to discuss the colony's future with Lord Cuthbert, when the bombs exploded (Michael Knipe writes). "We heard a loud bang outside and instinctively moved away from the french windows," said Maria Tam, a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. At first they thought it was thunder then realised it was a bomb and retreated from the room to the corridor. "There were several further bangs, or echoes of explosions," Miss Tam said, adding that people had remained very calm.

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## Explosion heard by Queen

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE QUEEN referred to the Downing Street attack when she opened a new wing of the Royal Brompton national heart and lung hospitals in Chelsea, west London, yesterday afternoon. She said she had been holding an audience at Buckingham Palace, nearly a mile away, when the blast occurred, and she and her staff had heard it clearly.

The Queen said told staff in a speech: "This occasion takes place against an international background of conflict in which our country and its forces are playing their full part. This morning, we have had a reminder at home that there are those who seek to undermine our democratic system and way of life."

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind them that they will not succeed."

On the Gulf war, the Queen said: "All of us will be praying in the days and weeks ahead that those serving in the Gulf may do their duty to the maximum effect and with the minimum casualties."

"Their families can at least be reassured that, for those who do suffer, the treatment and facilities standing by at this and other hospitals are of the very best."

IN THE CABINET ROOM

## Quick return to agenda after surprise item

By RICHARD FORD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE WAR cabinet's discussion on sharing the costs of the Gulf conflict had been under way for just eight minutes yesterday when a loud explosion interrupted its deliberations and reminded members of a longer conflict much nearer home.

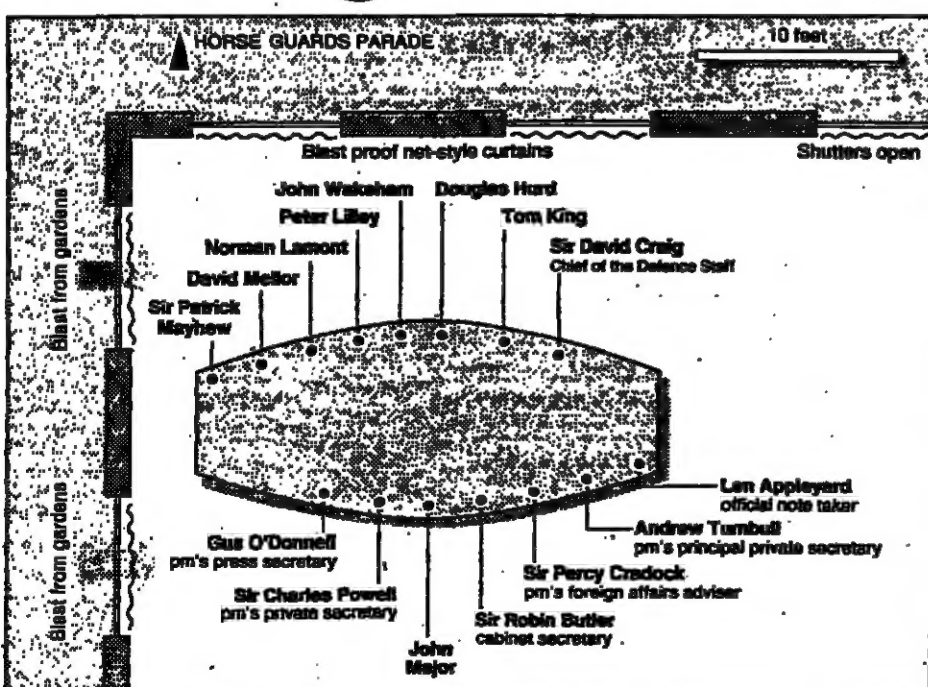
David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, was reporting to ministers and officials on his visit to the United Arab Emirates and the prospects of sharing war costs when the calm was broken by a bang followed by two plops.

It was 10.08 in the cabinet room. Tea and biscuits were about to be delivered to 15 people sitting at the coffin-shaped cabinet table, and a mortar had landed in the garden at the rear of 10 Downing Street, less than 50 feet from where John Major, the prime minister, was chairing the meeting.

The explosion shattered the specially protected windows of the cabinet room and buckled their frames. Security net curtains were in place as a precaution against flying glass.

As a blast of cold air blew through the room, Mr Mellor turned to the imposing figure of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, and remarked: "Thank God we had a big man like you sitting at the end of table."

Later, an official who had been in the cabinet room said: "There was a loud explosion outside. The windows shattered. I didn't see a flash. No one was really looking. There was a loud bang, two plops and then this blast of cold air."



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Douglas Hurd and Tom King, both former Northern Ireland secretaries, realised immediately what had happened, and, according to Downing Street sources, Mr Major displayed commendable sang-froid, looking at his colleagues and saying: "I think we had better start again somewhere else."

Mr Major and his colleagues were leaving the room before Downing Street security men arrived. Fifteen minutes later,

the war cabinet reassembled in a secret secure room nearby.

No one went towards the windows to see what had happened. Drawing on his Northern Ireland experience, Mr King told his colleagues that it was standard security procedure to leave quickly, in case of further devices.

An official who had attended the meeting said that those present had said little in the immediate aftermath of the explosion. "You look around, you realise no one is hurt — that is your immediate reaction — and then you just get the hell out of it quickly," the official said. He added: "The thought that there could be a bomb there [in the garden] is just amazing."

Although No 10 apparently escaped the worst of the blast, all the windows at the rear of 11 Downing Street were blown in, and offices at No 12 were badly damaged.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, has been made temporarily homeless by the attack. He had planned to move into No 11 yesterday, and he and his wife spent last night with friends. Their clothes and packing cases in the Chancellor's residence were covered with broken glass.

Richard Ryder, the chief whip, had a lucky escape. He was at a meeting in the Cabinet Office in Whitehall when the blast badly damaged his office at 12 Downing Street. He returned to find his wooden panelling peppered with shrapnel, and its windows blown in.

The adjoining office of Murdoch Maclean, his private secretary, which was also empty at the time, was damaged by the blast. Trees in the garden at Downing Street caught fire in the explosion and were badly charred.

As officials assessed the damage, the war cabinet resumed and received an update on military operations in the Gulf. Members were joined by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, who gave an initial report on the mortar attack.

At the war cabinet, in addition to Mr Major, Mr Mellor, Sir Patrick, Mr Hurd, and Mr King, were: Mr Lamont, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary; John Wakeham, the energy secretary; Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff; Gus O'Donnell, prime minister's press secretary; Sir Charles Powell, prime minister's private secretary; Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary; Sir Percy Cradock, foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister; Andrew Turnbull, principal private secretary to the prime minister; and Len Appleyard, an official taking notes.

THE GESTURE'S IMPORTANCE

## Defiance replaced by anger and embarrassment

By QUENTIN COWDRY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WHILE politicians and security experts united to condemn the IRA strike against the cabinet, many were shocked that it had been possible to launch such a near-disastrous attack in the heart of Britain's political establishment.

As police officers continued last night to scour the area around Downing Street for forensic evidence, in Westminster feelings of embarrassment and anger began to replace the earlier, studied mood of defiance. Few MPs were willing publicly to endorse the prime minister's claim that the bombing could not possibly have succeeded. Security sources voiced grudging admiration for the precision with which the IRA's first mortar attack on mainland Britain had been delivered. They believe the spot at which the mortars were fired had been worked out almost to the last inch, possibly conducted by IRA men posing as Irish labourers. Although two of the bombs overshot their target by about 100 yards, one came within 40ft of hitting it.

Kevin McNamara, shadow Northern Ireland secretary, said: "People have to be concerned that at a time of such heightened security and tension, terrorists have been able to drive into Whitehall and fire mortar bombs at the prime minister's London home."

He believes all public parking in the Whitehall and Westminster areas should be banned and that more uniformed policemen should be deployed in the vicinity.

Disquiet about the apparent ease with which the attack was carried out was also expressed on the Conservative back benches. Ivor Sunbrook, Tory MP for Oxtington and chairman of the party's backbench Northern Ireland committee, said: "This can hardly be described as a bungled attack. We have constantly underestimated the power of the IRA to strike at targets in central London. The government simply must put a lot more effort and resources into countering terrorism." Professor Paul

Wilkinson, an expert on terrorism, said the bombing highlighted the IRA's ability to deliver blows that were psychologically and physically damaging. "Attacking 10 Downing Street has obviously great propaganda value; but the physical threat has also been shown to be very real."

He said that since the base of a mortar was found in a "bomb factory" in Clapham, south London, in 1988, intelligence agencies had feared that the IRA was preparing to launch mortar bombs.

Security certainly had to be enhanced but the response needed to be carefully judged. The most urgent need was for better intelligence on the IRA's mainland operations.

The best place to fit  
a smoke alarm  
with dead batteries.

Don't forget it,  
check it.





# Bridge bombing campaign hits squeaky-clean PR image

WARS are associated with vivid images: the young Vietnamese girl running naked from napalm bombing, the barren hills of Korea, the exploding fire on HMS Antelope, the Royal Navy frigate attacked by Argentine Mirages and Skyhawks at San Carlos, or the Soviet helicopter gunships in Afghanistan.

The war with Iraq is only three weeks old, but already there are two images which could outlive the more personal photographs of human suffering which will inevitably emerge once the ground war begins. They are the sight of American Tomahawk cruise missiles flying over Baghdad, and Iraq's severed bridges.

The allied campaign to disrupt Iraq's main lines of communication has begun to generate passionate opposition, not just from King Hussein of Jordan, who

believes that Washington wants to destroy his Arab neighbour, but also from other critics who see the bombing of the bridges over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers as a sign that America is trying to damage the Iraqi economic infrastructure. To them, no doubt, the promise by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, to rebuild Iraq (including, presumably, the bridges) when the war is over may have sounded hollow.

The trouble for allied public relations is that the bridges are being destroyed when Iraq is barely retaliating. Iraqi aircraft have made no attempts to cut allied lines of communication. No Saudi bridges are down. The only craters in the roads to the Kuwaiti border have been caused by the weight of military convoys. None of the fuel supply points, ammunition stocks and command bun-

The war is only three weeks old yet images of cruise missiles flying over Baghdad and Iraq's ruined roads may outlive all others, Michael Evans writes

kers has been "visited" by Iraqi bombers.

This may be tempting fate. But it has to be said that for the moment the war is one-sided. This is why the image of the broken bridges, particularly the Jumbouira bridge over the Tigris, photographed with a cluster of Iraqis stranded at the northern end, will have a lasting effect on the perception of the war.

Is this part of the air campaign justified? Independent military experts, speculating before the outbreak of war about the likely allied strategy, spoke of the need

to attack the main air bases in southern Iraq which posed the greatest threat to allied forces in Saudi Arabia. But there was no mention of bridges or power stations. There was clearly little grasp then of the extent of the bombing which was soon to be launched against targets in every part of Iraq, from Basra and Fao in the south to Mosul in the north.

But now that the war is three weeks old, the military justification for hitting these targets is easier to explain. Iraq has the fourth largest army in the world, dwarfing Britain's and pushing

even the US Army of 760,000 into seventh place behind Vietnam. Most of President Saddam Hussein's professional and conscript soldiers are deployed in Kuwait and southern Iraq, about 600,000 men. With that many men doing it, it was bound to be difficult to dislodge them. But they have long lines of communication, all the way back to Baghdad and beyond.

No military commander would be so irresponsible as to send his forces to attack such a huge army from the front unless he had attempted first to cut off the enemy's supply lines in the rear. The main bridges across the Tigris and Euphrates represent the arteries of Saddam's war machine. Every bridge that remains standing means that supply convoys may get through to the troops in Kuwait, contributing almost inevitably to allied casualties when

the ground campaign begins. Going for the bridges, instead of trying to hit individual supply lorries, makes far better military sense. But there is also a greater risk of civilian casualties. Watching a video taken by an RAF Buccaneer of a recent strike on a bridge, in which bombs launched by a Tornado GR1 appear to pass through a commercial vehicle to hit the target, is an unnerving experience. The video has not been released for public viewing. A video of the Nasser bridge destroyed on Tuesday in the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah, 250 miles south of Baghdad, would have been more upsetting if it is true, as Iraq claims, that it was thronged by pedestrians and motor vehicles at the time of the attack.

When the ground war begins, the image of the ruined bridges and the implied loss of civilian life

will merge into other images which are likely to have a different effect on the public. If Saddam resorts to chemical and biological weapons, for example, the memory of those Iraqi citizens stranded at one end of the bridge in Baghdad will be forgotten.

By most accounts, the Iraqi leader is beyond thinking rationally. But even the most blinkered of his advisers should see sense in the argument that if Iraq is facing military defeat, it would be foolish to lose all hope of political victory by turning to the weapon systems which are guaranteed to change the image of the war, including, perhaps, in the Arab world. Gas victims provided the most macabre image of the Iran-Iraq war. However, who is brave enough among the Iraqi president's small circle of advisers to tell him that he is facing defeat?

## BATTLE TACTICS

### British chief promises Iraqi troops heavier bombardment

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British commander-in-chief in the Gulf gave a warning to Iraqi forces in Kuwait yesterday that the bombing they had suffered so far was "minor to what is coming ... in terms of intensity".

Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere also gave his personal opinion that a ground war was inevitable. Yesterday Baghdad radio broadcast that Iraq was impatient for the land battle to begin.

Sir Peter's conviction was not shared by United States commanders. Marine Brigadier-General Richard Neal, a US military spokesman speaking in Riyadh, did not agree that a land battle was inevitable. But he denied there was any disagreement between Sir Peter and General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander. The two men met twice a day and had developed an "amazing rapport and chemistry".

"There's no division between the two of them," General Neal said. Sir Peter said the allies were moving into a new air phase of the war "which is going to be to reduce the ability and will of Iraqi ground forces to fight".

Allied air attacks would concentrate on forward troop areas. "The whole of the Iraqi army in Kuwait and immediately behind Kuwait is going to get our full attention," Sir Peter said. The drive to evict Iraq from Kuwait "looks like taking place on the ground in the not too distant future".

Sir Peter stressed that, in spite of the air attacks, there was no indication at the moment that the Iraqi army was going to crack in the immediate future.

However, Pierre Joxe, the new French defence minister who has just visited French troops in the Gulf, claimed thousands of Iraq's elite Republican Guard soldiers had been killed in bombing raids. These figures were not confirmed by the British or American spokesmen.

Saudi troops fired at 14 Iraqi soldiers who tried to cross into Saudi Arabia on Wednesday night, a Saudi military spokesman said. One Iraqi was captured, the

others fled back across the border and there were no Saudi casualties, Colonel Ahmad al-Robayan said in Riyadh.

Seven Iraqis also surrendered to Egyptian troops on the northern frontier overnight. The desertions brought the total number of Iraqi prisoners-of-war to at least 893.

There were two other minor ground skirmishes when Iraqis spotted close to the border were fired on with mortars.

As the American battleship, USS Wisconsin, fired its 16 inch guns for the first time since the Korean war, three days after its sister ship, USS Missouri, began firing shells on Iraqi positions, it was announced that more Iraqi aircraft had flown to Iran. The total was now 134, of which 109 were fighters, the rest transport aircraft.

It was also confirmed that four Iraqi aircraft, two Su25s and two MiG21s, had been shot down by US pilots on Wednesday. Yesterday two US F15Cs engaged three Iraqi Su22s, apparently fleeing to Iran, and "confirmed two kills and one probable hit".

Two Iraqi helicopters, a Mi8 and a French-made Alouette, were shot down by a US Navy F14 and a US Air Force A10, respectively. A third was shot down in northern Iraq.

General Neal said allied aircraft had shot down at least 33 Iraqi planes in aerial combat and three helicopters since the Gulf war broke out on January 17.

In further action yesterday, two Iraqi patrol boats were destroyed. One of them, hit by a US A6 close to Khor Zubair creek, was a TNC45. The other was unidentified.

An American FA18, returning from a bombing mission, lost contact on its way back to one of the six American carriers in the northern Arabian Gulf and a search was underway last night for the missing pilot.

The United States Army also lost a helicopter in a "non-battle" incident which took place over Saudi Arabian territory. One crew member was killed and the four others were injured.



Torchlight vigil: peace campaigners protesting outside RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, from where American B52 bombers are being deployed against targets in Iraq and Kuwait. The long-range aircraft, veterans of Vietnam, began arriving this week

## PoWs

### Iraq guilty 'of gross violations'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday accused Iraq of a gross and flagrant violation of its obligations under the Geneva convention in its treatment of allied prisoners.

His strongest condemnation of Iraqi behaviour was made shortly before his talks with Cornelio Sommariva, president of the international committee of the Red Cross. Mr Major was planning to ask for full details of the Red Cross's abortive attempts to persuade the Iraqis to let them have access to allied prisoners.

In the Commons, a Tory MP suggested that the Red Cross should remind President Saddam Hussein that the Iraqis could not expect to benefit from their services while they refused to honour their obligations under the Geneva convention. Mr Major said he would make that point.

Also in the Commons, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, defended his deportation of some people of Arab origin. "Where matters of national security are concerned, it is better to be safe than sorry," he said.

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Falkirk West, said the Gulf war was about the defence of human rights, but there was a distinct danger that the British government would deprive innocent people of their human rights. Mr Baker said Saddam had made general threats of terrorism. When he received advice, he had to act on it. He did not believe in general internment.

## RECONSTRUCTION

### Postwar aid will depend on fall of Saddam, Baker says

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, yesterday proposed the creation of a Middle East bank to assist the region's reconstruction and development once the Gulf war is over. At the same time he indicated that President Saddam Hussein would have to be removed from power if Iraq were to receive any substantial benefit.

Recalling the role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Europe's reconstruction after the second world war, and the setting up more recently of regional development banks for Eastern Europe and other developing areas, Mr Baker said that efforts to secure long-term peace in the Middle East "warrant the

same spirit of multilateral commitment to reconstruction and development".

But, he said, "there is no suggestion on our part that the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq could proceed, if the current leadership of Iraq remained in power, to the same degree or extent that it would otherwise".

Giving evidence to the Senate foreign relations committee, Mr Baker suggested that funding for the bank should come primarily from the Middle East's oil-rich states, whose wealth has been a source of tension in poorer Arab nations. The West, however, would also have to contribute.

Mr Baker again emphasised that

the desire for revenge should be suppressed and that Iraq should, if possible, be included in any reconstruction programme. "The secure and prosperous future that everyone hopes to see in the Gulf has to include Iraq," he added.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, left last night for their war-strategy meeting with American commanders in Saudi Arabia amid conflicting and confusing signals from the Bush administration about the imminence of an allied ground offensive.

President Bush told an audience in New York on Wednesday night that an end to the war was "not going to take that long", indicating that a ground offensive was close. Senior congressmen briefed in private by Mr Cheney and General Powell said they had gained the strong impression that the air offensive would continue for some time. "I feel real good. There is no rush to do it," said Robert Michel, the House Republican leader.

Appearing before the House armed services committee yesterday, Mr Cheney commented: "Our hope is that we can wrap it up as soon as possible to minimise the loss of life on all sides."

As the fourth week of war began, the allied bombardment of the Republican Guard and other Iraqi military targets in Kuwait and Baghdad continued yesterday, with US military spokesmen claiming that four more Iraqi jets had been destroyed in combat, but admitting that a US navy F18 and an army helicopter had been lost in accidents.

## Deaths in Kuwait put at over 7,000

More than 7,000 citizens have died in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait since the country was invaded on August 2, according to a report based on eye-witness testimonies by health workers (Elaine Fogg writes).

The number of detainees held in camps and subjected to torture both in Kuwait and Iraq, is estimated at 17,000. The figures are based on information collected by doctors previously inside Kuwait, eye-witness accounts of the number of bodies seen in the city ice rink now used as a mortuary, and reports from gravediggers and relatives of the deceased.

The report, collected by Physicians for Human Rights in the US and Denmark, incorporates three accounts of premature babies being removed from incubators in hospitals inside Kuwait and left to die.

Amnesty International has estimated that around 300 terminally ill, physically and mentally handicapped patients, have been thrown out of institutions. From a population of two million plus, it is thought that only 350,000 Kuwaitis and 300,000 non-Kuwaitis remain in the country.

Recent reports out of Kuwait indicate that conditions are deteriorating rapidly for the population and for Iraqi troops.

## US civilian shot

Adana, Turkey — An American civilian was shot dead in the first killing here linked to the Gulf war. Bobbie Mozelle, aged 44, was employed as a customs specialist at the Incirlik air base, which is being used for bombing raids on Iraq. An underground left-wing organization, Dev Sol, claimed responsibility.

## Troops welcomed

Sidon — Rosewater was showered on about 1,500 Lebanese soldiers as they moved into recently abandoned Palestinian guerrilla positions facing Israeli lines yesterday, bringing hope that their presence would encourage stability in southern Lebanon. The troops took control of the region for the first time in 16 years.

## Gandhi's plea

Delhi — Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister, yesterday called for an end to the bombardment of Iraq and the replacement of the multinational force by United Nations forces. His call comes at a time when the Indian government is being criticised for leaning too strongly towards the United States over the Gulf.

## Syrian expectation

Syria will expect the Western allies to resolve the Arab-Israeli problem when the Gulf war is over, Farouq al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, said yesterday at the end of a two-day visit to London, after the first visit to London by a Syrian minister since diplomatic relations were resumed.

Iranian role, page 1

## WAR IN THE GULF: DAY 22

### ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** 52,000 allied air missions have been flown since the war began.

**LOSSES:** A US Navy F-16 Hornet jet was missing over the northern Arabian Gulf on its way back to its carrier base after a mission over Iraq. There were no indications it had been hit by anti-aircraft fire. Thirty allied troops have been killed in action, including 12 Americans and 18 Saudis. Twenty-two Americans are listed as non-combat deaths. Further 105 American non-combat deaths in Operation Desert Shield before the war. Allies have lost 27 planes, 21 in combat — 14 American, five British, one Kuwaiti and one Italian.

**CLAIMS:** Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of British forces in the Gulf, said: "We are in a transition period between the air war and the land war. I believe the land war is inevitable. After three weeks of round-the-clock bombing of Iraqi forces was 'minor to what is coming... in terms of intensity.' The US said allied pilots shot down two Iraqi planes headed for Iran yesterday and a third was believed downed. Number of Iraqi planes flown to Iran total 134. At least 33 Iraqi planes in aerial combat and three helicopters since the war began.

More RAF Tornado GR1 fighter-bombers with a new laser targeting system have arrived. The Royal Navy said that of the 22 Iraqi vessels destroyed since the war began, the navy could claim six — three Exocet-armed patrol boats, two minesweepers and two other ships. The US battleship Wisconsin fired its big guns in action,

adding to the allied bombardment of Iraqi positions in Kuwait. Saudi troops fired at 14 Iraqi soldiers who tried to cross into Saudi Arabia on Wednesday night. One was captured, the others fled and there were no Saudi casualties. Seven Iraqis surrendered to Egyptian troops on the northern frontier overnight. The desertions bring the total number of Iraqi enemy prisoners of war to at least 893.

### IRAQI FORCES

**CLAIMS:** Iraq said it was "waiting impatiently for its decisive battle against all the infidel forces". Baghdad Radio said that by sending Richard Cheney and General Powell to the Gulf, President Bush was seeking "to speed up" the ground attack against Iraq. It added "all news reports confirm that the number of Americans killed will exceed tens of thousands if a ground battle occurs." Iraq issued a new call for Arab and Muslim militants to attack US and Western interests, saying there was no place for neutrality in the war.

**IRANIAN CLAIMS:** Iran said six Iraqi planes entered its airspace on Wednesday and Thursday but only one landed undamaged.

### ALLIED WAR AIMS

UN Security Council resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

Resolution 678 also calls on the nations assisting Kuwait "to restore international peace and security in the area".

## Bush launches crusade to counter church doubts

From CHARLES BRENNER in NEW YORK

IN HIS psychological war with President Saddam Hussein, President Bush lost important allies on the home front before the fighting even began — the leaders of the mainstream churches. Senior Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists, and leaders of many other denominations, have broken with precedent and opposed a president's decision to go to war on the outset, providing a powerful moral core for the peace movement.

Worried about the dissenting churchmen, many of them activists from the Vietnam era, the White House has opened a counter-offensive, invoking Ecclesiastes, St Augustine and other ancient authorities. "The war in the Gulf is not a Christian war or a Muslim war, it is a just war," an impassioned Mr Bush told religious broadcasters. In his State of the Union address, Mr Bush said: "Our cause is just; our cause is moral; our cause is

right." He was seeking to counter arguments being voiced from the pulpits of thousands of churches across America.

For example, in Croton-on-Hudson, a prosperous town in New York's commuter belt, the Rev Linda Kimmelman asked her Methodist parishioners to pray for the troops in the Gulf but went on: "Why are we at war? Because human greed, lust for power and national self-interest are alive and well. Ask yourself, if the primary export of Kuwait were broccoli and not oil, would we be in this war?"

For the moment, it is clear from polls that tens of millions of worshippers in this church-going country do not share the anti-war views of their clergy. Strong support for the morality of the conflict is coming from Jewish clergy. "I was part of the peace movement in the Vietnam war," said Rabbi Philip Kranz of Atlanta. "But I think this is different. I think that (Saddam) needs to be rooted out. I think

his evil designs have to be checked." Many of the smaller, conservative churches of the South support the president, as do the television preachers and, in particular, Billy Graham, the veteran evangelist, who prayed with him in the White House on the night of the opening offensive.

The president is pained by the attitude of his own Episcopal church and other members of the National Council of Churches, which told him that "this sacrifice is out of proportion to any conceivable gain which might be achieved through military action". The Most Rev Edmund Browning, head of the Episcopal Church of the United States, says the war fails to meet any of the criteria in Christian doctrine for a just war. "The more I see about war and how war is conducted, the less I believe it is possible for there to be a just war." According to church sources, Mr Bush asked the bishop to explain to him the morality of doing

nothing. "Where were the churches when Hitler overran Poland?" he was reported to have asked.

Only one Catholic bishop, Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, has supported Mr Bush. Most of the others oppose the war, including Archbishop Daniel Pitarczyk of Cincinnati, president of the Bishops' Conference. Offensive force violated "the principles of last resort and proportionality", he said. Pax Christi, the biggest Catholic peace organisation, has gone further, blaming the president for failing to pursue negotiations.

Critics of the churches' pacifism argue that they are taking no account of the political realities of the world. "The National Council of Churches was immeasurably more concerned about the possibility of the use of US military force in the Persian Gulf than it was about resisting the aggression of Saddam Hussein," said George Weigel, the president of the Ethics and Public Policy Centre.



## IRAQ

# Battered town is made symbol of civilian suffering

FROM the air on Wednesday afternoon the small convoy of vehicles moving slowly along an exposed section of road just north of the Iraqi town of Nasiriyah must have presented a tempting target.

In accordance with the new search-and-destroy mission carried out over Iraq and Kuwait by allied warplanes, the pilot fired two bursts of cannon fire which peppered the road, gouging small holes in the tarmac and disabling a dozen vehicles, both military and civilian.

By the time our car reached the scene minutes later, soldiers could be seen fleeing for the safety of the roadside from a civilian bus which had been daubed with mud in an unsuccessful attempt to camouflage it.

Unfortunately for one Iraqi family, however, sandwiched between an army lorry and the busload of soldiers, the aircraft also scored direct hits on their small white Toyota. Ahmed Qassem, aged 10, was fatally wounded in the head. His sister, Soussan, aged 12, escaped with no more than a flesh wound in her left arm.

The air raid provided a fitting introduction to this southern town of a million people about a hundred miles north of Basra, where the frequency of the air attacks and the damage to roads, bridges and communication lines makes the nightly raid on Baghdad seem insignificant by comparison.

For the Iraqi authorities the town has also become a symbol of the allied destruction of civilian property. This is as a result of an air raid on Monday afternoon when, hospital officials said, 47 people died and more than 163 were injured when the Nasser bridge over the Euphrates, which divides the town, was destroyed by three direct hits.

Majid Touma, aged 30, a soldier on leave who lost half of his right leg in the raid,

On a visit to the Iraqi provincial capital of Nasiriyah, Richard Beeston inspects civilian damage and reports on an upsurge of anti-Western feeling

recalled that he had just begun to cross the bridge when the first missile struck at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Previous, night-time raids had already destroyed the main motorway bridge and a pedestrian pontoon crossing. Although the Nasser bridge was hit and closed to vehicles, it had become the main crossing point for the city's pedestrians.

"There must have been about 300 people walking across at the time," Mr Touma said. "I saw many injured and dead fall into the water and then I lay in shock from my injury."

Although the few hundred civilian deaths in Iraq have been proportionately small compared with the thousands of tons of ordnance that has been dropped on the country during the three weeks since the war began, the recent targeting of bridges and roads is beginning to take its toll because civilians must perforce use many of the same routes as the military.

In Baghdad on Wednesday night there was a further example of the difficulty the allied forces are having in precision-bombing military targets. Three rockets missed the Adhamiya bridge over the Tigris and destroyed five homes. Six people are reported to have been killed and another 15 were injured. Never slow to capitalise on the propaganda value of such air attacks, the Iraqi leadership has been quick to expose what it describes as allied "war crimes".

In Nasiriyah, the provincial capital of Dhiqar province, the governor, Taber Yassin Hussein, told Western report-

ers on Wednesday night that the average of 20 attacks a day on the town made a travesty of President Bush's undertaking that allied forces would spare civilian life.

Stopping a stretcher with an injured Bedouin girl lying in pain and then holding up her wounded arm to correspondents as proof of his words, the grey-haired governor said: "This is one of the criminal acts committed by Bush. We have heard about the crimes against Vietnam and the Palestinians, but this is bigger. Even unfeeling animals would have to take pity on this sight," he declared.

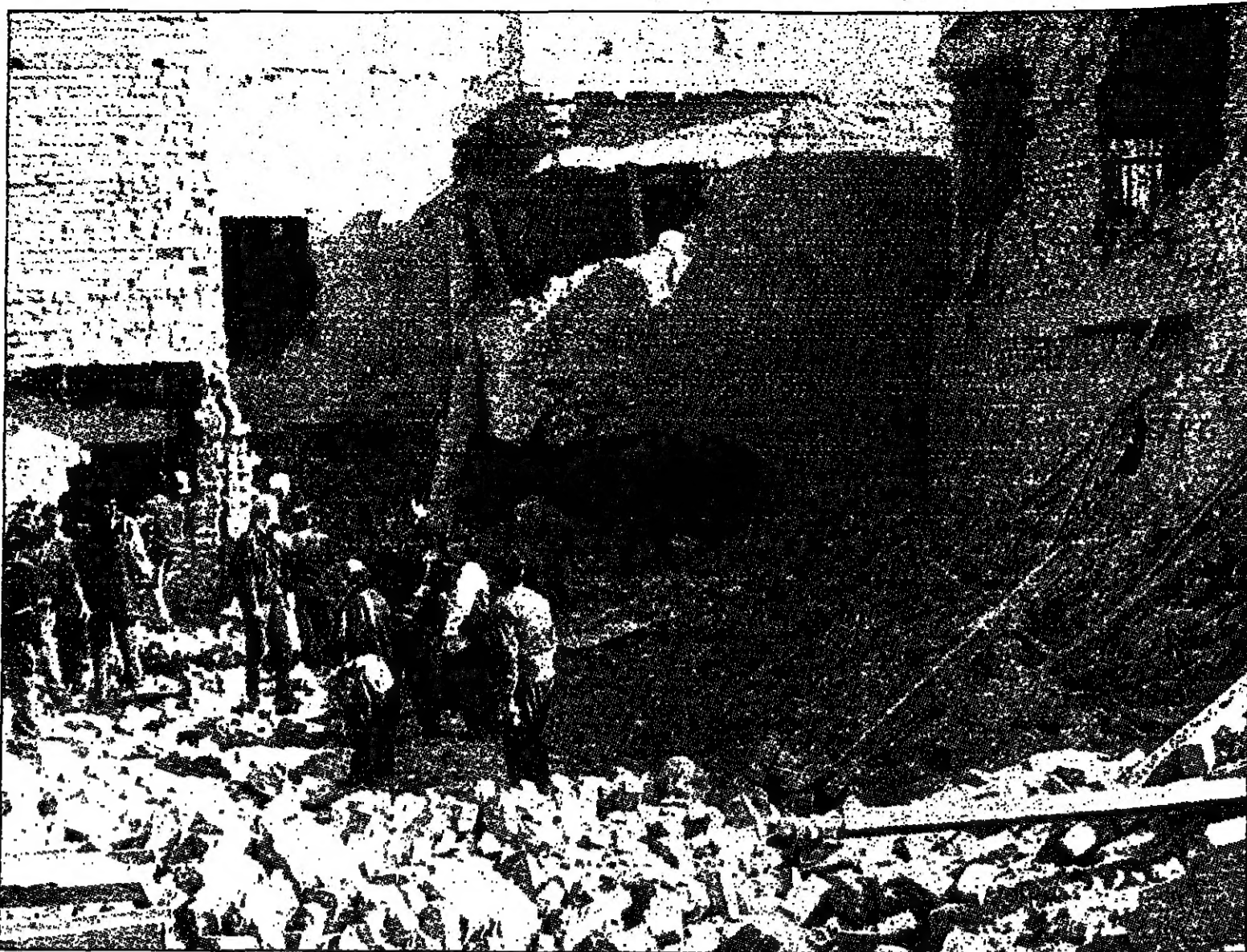
The well-rehearsed rhetoric, accompanied by frequently dubious contradictory stories and inflated casualty figures, was no more than was to be expected.

According to the Pentagon, the southern region of Iraq, particularly the area further south in Basra, has been the target of the most sustained allied bombardment since the start of the war, a move intended to hit positions of the elite Republican Guard and make the roads through the maze of waterways, canals and rivers impassable.

But the side-effects, in the form of damage to civilian property and casualties among non-combatants, are beginning to alienate even people who counted themselves pro-Western before the war began. Hassan Abdul Reza, an army orderly who has been working in the military hospital in Basra, said that 20 to 25 civilians were dying every day because of allied hits on the southern capital which, judging by the stream of coffins draped in Iraqi flags heading north on the motorway on Wednesday, were also causing military casualties.

"I used to like the West, I even taught myself English," the young man said, unprompted by Iraqi officials. "But now all these ideals have been shattered by this bombardment. We feel now that, if we are defeated, it will be our end."

(This report is subject to Iraqi censorship.)



Demolition site: Iraqis picking their way through the rubble of two houses, reported by a Canadian journalist to have been destroyed by an allied cruise missile. The picture was taken last Friday in the main residential area of the town of Karradeh, near Baghdad

## FRONT LINE

## MP answers army's call

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN SAUDI ARABIA

THE first serving member of Parliament to put on British army uniform for duty in a war zone for almost half a century dropped in on the camp of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars yesterday.

Looking at home in his camouflage fatigues, Charles Goodson-Wickes, Conservative MP for Wimbledon and a specialist doctor, praised the "marvellous" level of care available in the military hospitals preparing for the beginning of ground fighting. "It is a real privilege to see and be able to take part in an operation that other professionals have been putting together with such care," he said.

Mr Goodson-Wickes, aged 45, once a career officer in the Life Guards, served in Northern Ireland, Germany and Cyprus before moving into politics. He volunteered for Gulf duty immediately after the appeal went out for reservists with "a military and



Goodson-Wickes at home in camouflage fatigues

medical background". With his keen interest in defence — he has recently become a member of the Commons defence committee — Mr Goodson-Wickes felt he was the right man for the job.

On his arrival early in January, he was posted to the 200-bed 32 Field Hospital, part of Britain's First Armoured Division, where his skills as an occupational phy-

sician were welcomed. He runs the equivalent of a casualty department, to which soldiers who are not in immediate need of surgery will be evacuated from the battlefield.

Mr Goodson-Wickes holds the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In addition to his hospital responsibilities, he works in liaison with medical formations — a contrast to his peacetime post as medical adviser to Barclays Bank.

Yesterday Mr Goodson-Wickes recalled how, before leaving for the Gulf, he had thrown a dinner party for those who had served in the Commons and the armed forces during the second world war. Lord Hailsham, who was among the guests, had reminisced about the occasion when the then prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, faced his vote of confidence in May 1940: every man in uniform, Lord Hailsham said, tramped off into the "No" lobby.

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

## CASUALTIES

## Body count details put on computer

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN SAUDI ARABIA

AS THE start of the land war moves closer, preparations for dealing with the expected tens of thousands of dead from both sides are being completed.

In the American army, the task of dealing with those killed has been computerised, with "battle roster numbers", two-letter, four-digit combinations, going on record to help the military keep track of the casualties.

This technological innovation is designed to lessen the chances of "unknown soldiers" being left behind by giving combat units a means of referring to individual troops over insecure radio frequencies without identifying them by name or unit.

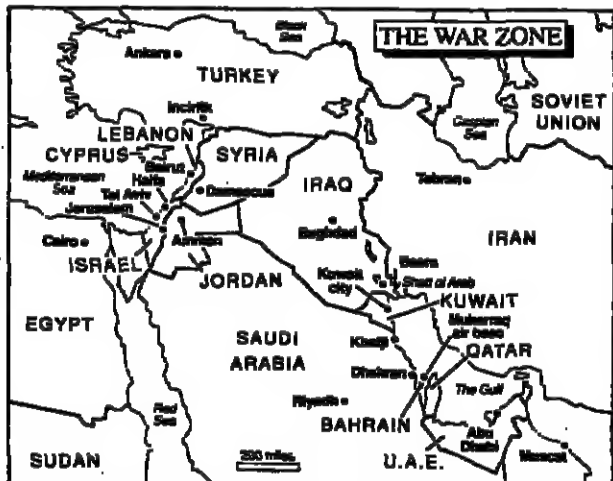
But the system is being criticised already. Many officers argue that it may delay the identification of casualties, since it adds one more set

of letters and numbers to the many already assigned to the American forces.

"The battle roster only adds to the paper work," complained Staff Sergeant Jitendra Shukla, a veteran with 14 years' service, attached to a medical unit. "Why not just use the social security number as the battle roster number?"

He went on: "We have tried 100,000 ways to keep track of casualties. But once a soldier is a casualty, it is virtually impossible to track his whereabouts by the hour. He might be taken to one hospital, given some treatment, and then a few hours later taken to another hospital, and the first hospital may have no idea where. I have tried to iron it out several times, but ... it can be days before you know where a casualty is."

Letters, page 13



## RELIGION

## Saudis relax curbs on worship

FROM MARIAM ISA IN SAUDI ARABIA

THE Saudi government is becoming more openly tolerant of the non-Muslim religious beliefs of the thousands of allied soldiers deployed in their country.

Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, non-Muslim worship in the desert kingdom, which is the birthplace of Islam and site of the religion's two holy cities, was strictly prohibited. The arrival of more than half a million Western soldiers, now fighting Iraq alongside Saudi, Kuwaiti and other Arab forces, has changed all that.

Desert worship services for Christians and Jews are held regularly, albeit far from the public eye. Chaplains and priests distribute bibles to American soldiers rediscovering their faith as they wait for their first taste of combat.

In an unprecedented step last Tuesday, a Roman Catholic chaplain from the United States army blessed a mess hall at an air base shared with Saudi, Kuwaiti and British forces. Father Vincent Inghilterra of Paterson, New Jersey, was careful to make his dedication ecumenical by beginning with the phrase: "Oh God, Allah" and ending it by saying in Arabic: "May the God of all bless us all."

Afterwards, he said that Saudi restrictions on the practice of non-Muslim religions were not as severe as most people believed. Christians could practice their religion as long as they did not try to convert Muslims, and he felt priests and their Saudi hosts had become more comfortable with one another compared with six months ago.

## US AIR FORCE

## Vietnam veterans hail pilots of today

FROM REUTER IN THE GULF

AMERICAN pilots who flew in Vietnam say their younger Gulf war counterparts are better equipped, better trained and more intelligent.

More than 15 years after the fall of Saigon, few Vietnam veterans are still on active service, but they hold key positions. From a pilot's point of view, the difference between Vietnam's jungle guerrilla war and today's open desert campaign was one of men and equipment, said Colonel Manfred Rietsch, aged 49.

Vietnam conscripts, reluctant soldiers, have little in common with today's highly motivated volunteers armed with high-technology weapons. "They are 1,000 per cent more prepared than we were," said Lieutenant-Colonel Scott Dudley, aged 42, who flew F4 Phantoms in Vietnam.

"When I was asked to 'go and do it' I had barely 100 hours of flying," Colonel Rietsch recalled. "Our guys here had between 700 and 1,000 hours." Three weeks into the war, "they are getting combat-wise as we go along," said Colonel Don Beaufait, aged 44.

Political support for the war is a great morale-booster. "The objectives are clearer this time," said Colonel Beaufait. President Saddam Hussein's posture made the war seem more clear-cut than Vietnam. Major Mike Healey, an F/A18 pilot, said: "The nice thing this time is we've got a real villain. Ho Chi Minh was kind of a folk hero."



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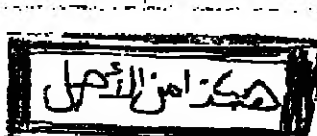


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INTERCITY



# Assaults in the surgery uncovered by GPs' survey

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY two-thirds of family doctors have been abused or assaulted by patients or patients' relatives in the past 12 months, according to a sample survey published today.

The survey, in the *British Medical Journal*, is the largest of its kind and shows an alarmingly high incidence of violence in the surgery and during night visits, and suggests that it is increasing. Many doctors said that they were repeatedly abused or assaulted, with incidents ranging from verbal abuse, or objects being thrown, to severe physical injury needing hospital care. Forty per cent of the patients became aggressive because they were anxious or had been kept waiting.

The study of 1,093 doctors in the West Midlands shows that 62.9 per cent had suffered some sort of aggression in the previous year. Nearly 15 per

cent experienced regular verbal abuse (at least once a month) and 2.8 per cent regular threatening behaviour. Three doctors claimed that they were regularly physically assaulted or obstructed. Thirty-six GPs had sustained minor injuries from an assault in the past 12 months and five had been severely injured during that period.

Over half the incidents occurred in the surgery, with 40 per cent of all incidents taking place in the consulting room. Serious violence tended to happen during home visits, particularly at night, and the aggressor was generally male and under 40. Nearly 40 per cent of aggressors were male patients and 24.8 per cent were male relatives of patients. Relatives were responsible for aggression in 37.6 per cent of incidents.

Aggression was often influenced by drugs or alcohol, although anxiety was the main factor in a quarter of the cases. Long waits in the surgery and bereavement were also associated with violence. Mental illness was the most important factor linked with serious assault injuries. The report's author, Dr Richard Hobbs, of the department of general practice at Birmingham university, says that the survey confirms that aggression during the working day is a regular feature for many GPs.

Recent studies concerning other health and social services staff have prompted employers to find safer ways of providing services, but these are often impractical for the self-employed GP, he says. GPs suffering abuse should discuss it with colleagues, and practices should have protocols for dealing with incidents.

Attempts should also be made to improve the surgery environment, using muted colours, soft lighting and sound-proofed consulting rooms, he says. Medical students should be trained in communication skills, particularly in dealing with the mentally ill and drug abusers.

Dr Hobbs says that the increase in violence should not, however, undermine the doctor/patient relationship and that access should not be restricted. "Reduced access to the doctor would be likely to increase the stress and lengthen the delays for patients, two of the principal factors that precipitate violence," he says.

Although there was only a 40 per cent response rate from the initial 2,469 sample, Dr Hobbs points out that 37 per cent of respondents had not suffered any abuse, and non-respondents shared similar ages, sex, practice size and location.

The British Medical Association suggested that an increased workload on doctors under GP contracts could be increasing the stress of doctors and patients, this being reflected in more violence. Dr John Chisholm, GP negotiator for the BMA, said that he deplored the fact that doctors, who depended on mutual trust with patients, were being abused.



Sir Andrew: investigating the alternatives

## Transport spending

# Investment to rise 25% in three years

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

DETAILS of the government's proposed £16 billion investment programme in new and modernised transport infrastructure were published by the transport department yesterday.

The expenditure plans, first outlined in the Chancellor's autumn statement in November, cover all spending proposals on rail, light rail, underground services, the national and local road network, civil aviation, and shipping.

Investment in transport infrastructure during the next three years will increase by 25 per cent in real terms over the previous three years, although investment levels, defined as a percentage of total government spending, are still below those recorded in 1979.

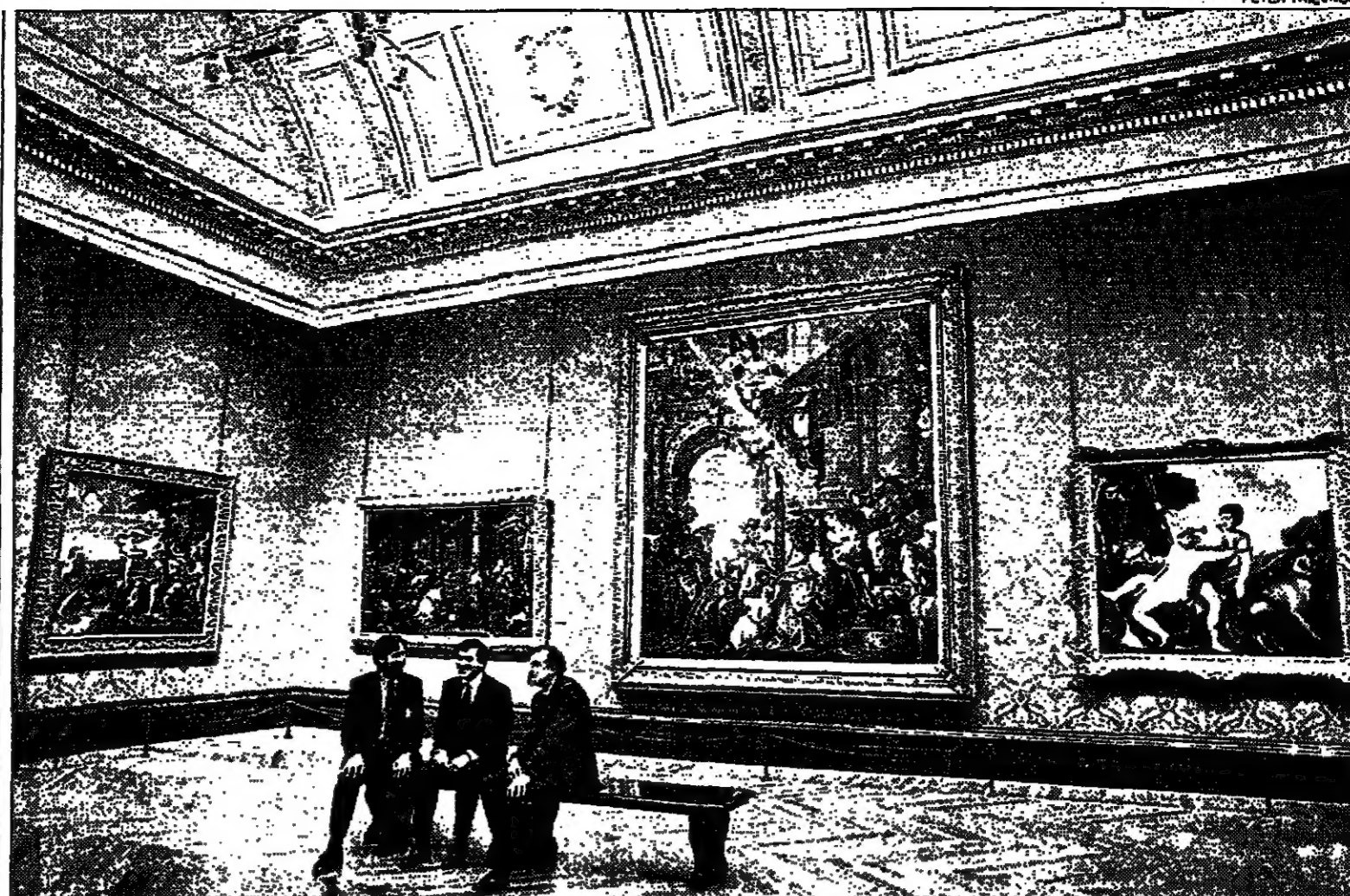
Spending on British Rail will go up by 60 per cent, the highest for 30 years, while spending on London Underground will rise by 90 per

cent, the highest recorded. Spending on the national road system will increase by 25 per cent.

British Rail is planning to invest more than £4 billion throughout the national rail network, including £1.4 billion on upgrading links to the Channel tunnel, and about £100 million on railway safety improvements.

London Underground plans to invest some £2.472 billion over the three year period, including £121 million on the extension of the Jubilee line between Charing Cross and Stratford.

The transport department expects to complete a variety of road schemes in the present financial year, including two sections of the A14 link between the M1 and the A1, and the Newcastle upon Tyne western bypass. A total of 160 bypass schemes are now under construction or are in the planning and design stages.



# Psychiatrists launch drive against eating disorders

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A UNIVERSITY graduate weighed just four stones and was close to death when she was admitted to hospital with an extreme form of anorexia nervosa, the eating disorder.

The woman's case was described yesterday by Andrew Sims, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, at the launch of a campaign to educate the public about the disorder and a related condition, bulimia nervosa.

Professor Sims said that the woman was obsessed with losing weight and had starved herself to such an extent that she could not swallow. "She was little more than a skeleton," he said.

Chris Freeman, a psychiatrist at the Royal Edinburgh hospital, said that cases included a woman who lost half her weight and whose evening meal was an Oxo cube, and a girl of 18 who had the bones of a 60-year-old due to damage she had done her body.

"Hundreds of thousands of women in this country have a serious eating disorder or some of the symptoms," he said. Although only about a dozen deaths a year resulted from anorexia nervosa in Britain, a study spanning more than 33 years in Sweden had shown a mortality rate of 19 per cent among sufferers.

Richard Williams, a psychiatrist at the Bristol Royal Hospital for Sick Children, said that a London survey of 15-year-old girls showed that 31 per cent were dieting, and just under 3 per cent had diagnosable eating problems. "Dieting in the teenage years appears to be connected

with the later development of more severe eating disorders," Dr Williams said. "Control of eating is one way of dealing with the inherent anxieties of growing up through creating an illusion of self-control."

The average age of onset of anorexia nervosa was about

16, but cases were appearing in girls as young as ten or 11, Dr Williams said.

A leaflet, *Anorexia and Bulimia*, can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

Back in the frame: Neil MacGregor, centre, director of the National Gallery, views the newly refurbished west wing, which reopened to the public yesterday and was made possible by sponsorship worth £1.5 million (Simon Tait writes). With him are Michael Wilson, left, the head of exhibitions, and Michael Morrison, architectural adviser. Mr MacGregor said: "The cost has been about £2.5 million, but without this patronage the reclamation of these galleries and the installation of the

essential air-conditioning system would not have been possible." A special hexagonal room has been created to house together masterpieces by J.M.W. Turner and the French painter Claude, as stipulated in Turner's bequest. The reopening of the rooms heralds the reorganisation of picture hanging in the gallery, which is now arranged chronologically. "This rearrangement is closely linked with the opening of the new Sainsbury wing in the summer," Mr MacGregor said.

# Marksman had illegal rare bird collection

By PETER DAVENPORT

A LEADING international clayshooter who was discovered to have an illegal collection of nearly 300 stuffed birds in his home, including four eagles and an osprey, was yesterday fined a total of £8,500 by magistrates.

Graham Sturzak, aged 38, a former member of the national clayshooting team, pleaded guilty to possessing 282 protected birds, 69 of them subject to special protection because of their rarity.

He also received two six-month suspended sentences, had his shotgun confiscated, and his firearms certificates revoked. The birds were all protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

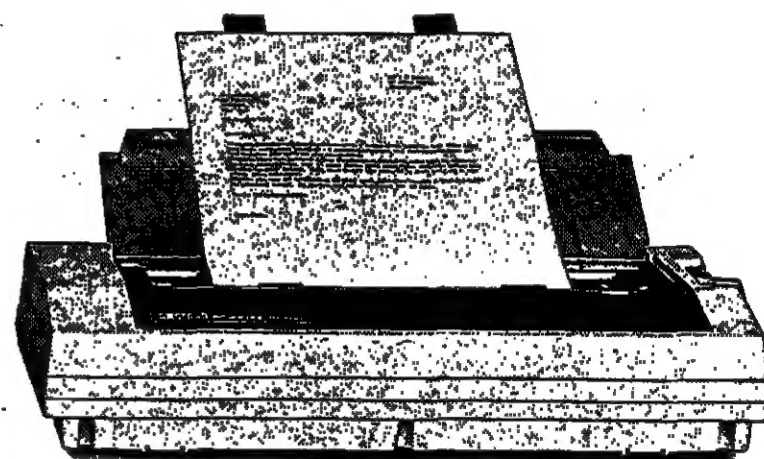
Magistrates at Garstang, Lancashire, were told that police found the birds, some in a freezer, at Sturzak's home in Hambleton, Lancashire. They went to the house after he was seen on nearby marshes shooting rare black-tailed godwits.

He faced 11 charges, nine of them under the Wildlife Act and two under the Firearms Act 1968. Donald Fletcher, for the prosecution, said that the collection had been built up over more than 20 years. He said that Sturzak had told police that many of the birds had been shot by other people.

Michael Buckley, counsel for the defence, said that Sturzak had never knowingly shot a protected bird which he thought it was illegal for him to shoot. When he had started his collection it had not been illegal to possess many of the birds.



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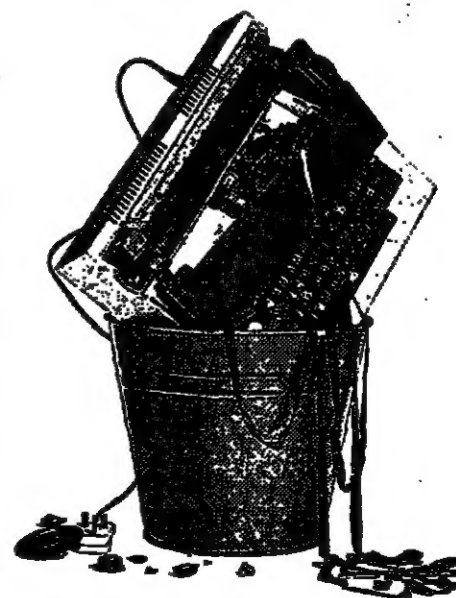
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# Law puts the brake on speeding trucks with 60mph limiters

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

VIOLATIONS of the 60mph speed limit by heavy goods vehicles are to be prevented by the introduction of speed limiters on all new vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, Christopher Chope, the roads minister announced yesterday.

The move, unveiled at the committee stage of the road traffic bill, is part of a wider review of speed limits for all categories of vehicle on motorways, dual and single carriageways, which transport department officials initiated in the autumn.

Mr Chope said there were "substantial advantages" to be obtained from the compulsory fitting of speed limiters to all new heavy goods vehicles. "There is widespread speeding by heavy goods vehicles, and the introduction of speed limiters should make a worthwhile contribution to improving road safety."

Nearly 1,000 people are killed and more than 4,000 people seriously injured every year in collisions involving heavy goods vehicles, Mr

Chope said. Estimates suggest that when the entire lorry fleet is fitted with speed limiters, which control fuel flow, deaths and injuries will fall by 25 and 400 a year respectively.

The move has received widespread support from the road haulage industry because of the fuel savings it will yield, calculated at 20 million litres of derv in the first year, and 150 million litres a year when the entire fleet is fitted. The

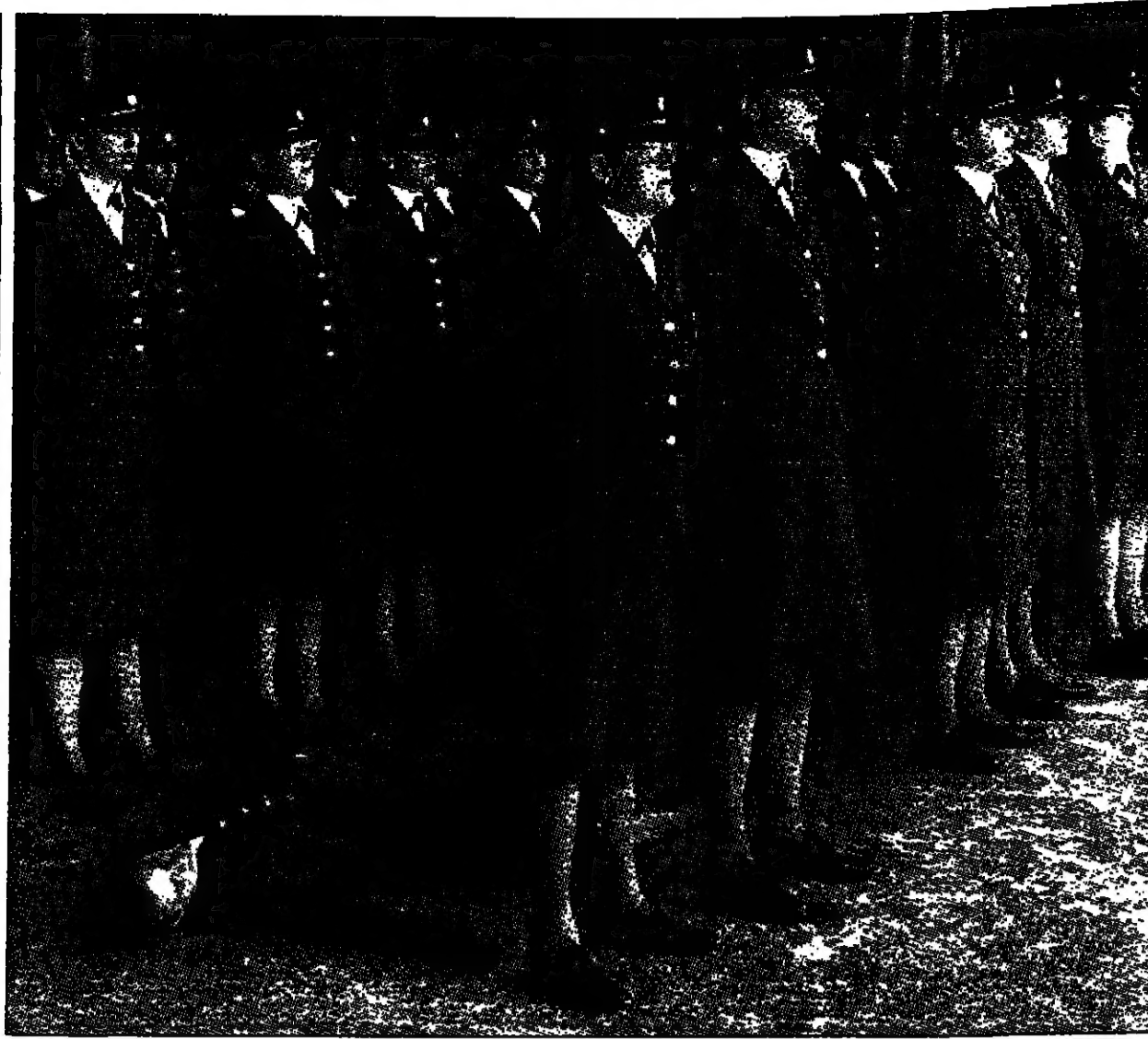


Chope: "Contribution to improving road safety"

Freight Transport Association welcomed Mr Chope's announcement, "providing it forms part of a policy which would improve the fuel consumption of heavy lorries". Speeding on motorways had declined but there were still too many lorries being driven too fast.

Speed limiters, likely to be introduced in August 1992, will also make a significant contribution to the environment by reducing Britain's annual carbon dioxide emissions by 60,000 tonnes in the first year, and 500,000 tonnes when all lorries have been fitted. The wider review, which includes an evaluation of whether speed limits should be increased or decreased, is not expected to be completed for another two to three months. It is understood, however, that officials are considering whether to increase motorway speeds to 80mph, and reduce speeds on other roads to 50mph.

Leading article, page 13



Caught cold: one of three members of the Women's Royal Army Corps who collapsed at Guildford yesterday as they waited for a midwinter inspection by Lord Arran, the defence under-secretary. Rail chaos, page 1

## Pledge by Labour on college standards

LABOUR yesterday promised to raise the quality of higher education through the establishment of an academic standards council for universities, polytechnics and colleges (John O'Leary writes).

The council would be able to recommend closure of courses or whole institutions, but the party's consultative document *Quality Assured* expects persuasion and example to be the norm. It would take over functions of the Council for National Academic Awards and the universities' academic audit unit, and although government-funded, would have independent status.

Andrew Smith, Labour's higher education spokesman, said the costs of the council might produce a saving on the £8 million now spent by quality control agencies. The system would tell students what quality of education they could expect, and would exert pressure for higher standards.

The council would review institutions' quality assurance mechanisms, the external examiner system, student evaluation of courses, staff appraisal and career development, and the development of academic credit transfer.

## Todd starts race for his successor

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

RON Todd, Britain's most powerful and influential union leader, announced yesterday the beginning of the election procedure to choose his successor as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Although a staunch supporter of Neil Kinnock, Mr Todd has consistently embarrassed Labour by his uncompromising commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Although Mr Todd will not relinquish his post until March next year, he is determined to introduce his successor to the union's 1.25 million members at its conference in July. At least three senior union officials will stand in the election, which promises to be hard fought and could become extremely bitter.

For the left, the champion will be Bill Morris, Britain's most prominent black trade unionist, who has proved a worthy deputy to Mr Todd in the complex and sometimes hostile world of the TGWU.

Mr Morris said yesterday that his main task, if he were elected, would be to fight for his members by arguing that jobs and living standards would decline unless there were a commitment to formulating an industrial strategy based on manufacturing, coupled with an immediate cut of 2 percentage points in interest rates.

His main opponent, backed by most of the union's regional secretaries and carrying the banner of the moderate right, will be George Wright, regional secretary for Wales, who also hopes to draw support from his former base in the Midlands.

Mr Wright believes that the TGWU, which is deeply in debt, faces a struggle to survive. He said that because the union was the largest affiliate to both the TUC and the Labour party, its direction would have a "massive" effect on the whole labour movement. He would try to create a more constructive relationship with Labour, while "retaining an independent right to function as an effective trade union".

Bob Harrison, the union's national secretary for food, drink and tobacco industries, is putting himself forward as a candidate able to unify political factions within the union.

The last contest for the leadership, in 1984, was marred by allegations of ballot irregularities. In a re-run vote, Mr Todd defeated Mr Wright by 325,586 to 248,746.

Agents face move for ethics code

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE government should introduce a mandatory code of practice and minimum standards of competence for estate agents to protect the public from unqualified and unscrupulous "rogue" agents, John Buddle, president of the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, said yesterday.

He said that the society and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors would launch an initiative this month through meetings with the government, the Office of Fair Trading, consumer organisations and professional bodies. Government proposals for stricter controls on agents did not go far enough, he said. "We shall seek to persuade those responsible that the present policy is not offering the public the protection they expect and deserve."

Speaking in London, Mr Buddle said that the reputation of estate agents was marred by the few rogue agents, and until the government introduced a mandatory code of practice with statutory backing and laid down minimum standards of competence, the public and profession would continue to suffer.

"Voluntary self-regulation will simply not work. It is the activities of those on the fringe of our industry who concern us most. Can anybody really believe that they would subscribe to a voluntary code?"

## BBC to cut 300 posts in Wales

BBC Wales is to shed 300 jobs in a £2.8 million cost-cutting plan aimed at making more money available for programme production. BBC Radio Gwent, which has 2,500 listeners, will be closed down.

The move, which comes after BBC Midlands announced 80 redundancies and BBC Bristol 91, is part of a strategy to save the corporation £75 million by 1993. HTV, the Welsh ITV company, recently announced 200 redundancies.

## Keegan banned

The former England footballer Kevin Keegan, aged 39, was yesterday fined £250 and banned from driving for eight weeks. He admitted driving at 110mph on the M3 near Winchester, Hampshire.

## Teacher's legacy

Gertrude Barwood, a retired village school teacher of Lowestoft, Suffolk, who died aged 79, left nearly £250,000 to the children's ward at her local hospital.

## Sugar jobs lost

British Sugar is to shed 106 jobs at its factory in Brigg, South Humberside, due to a reorganisation of the beet side of production.

## Water costs up

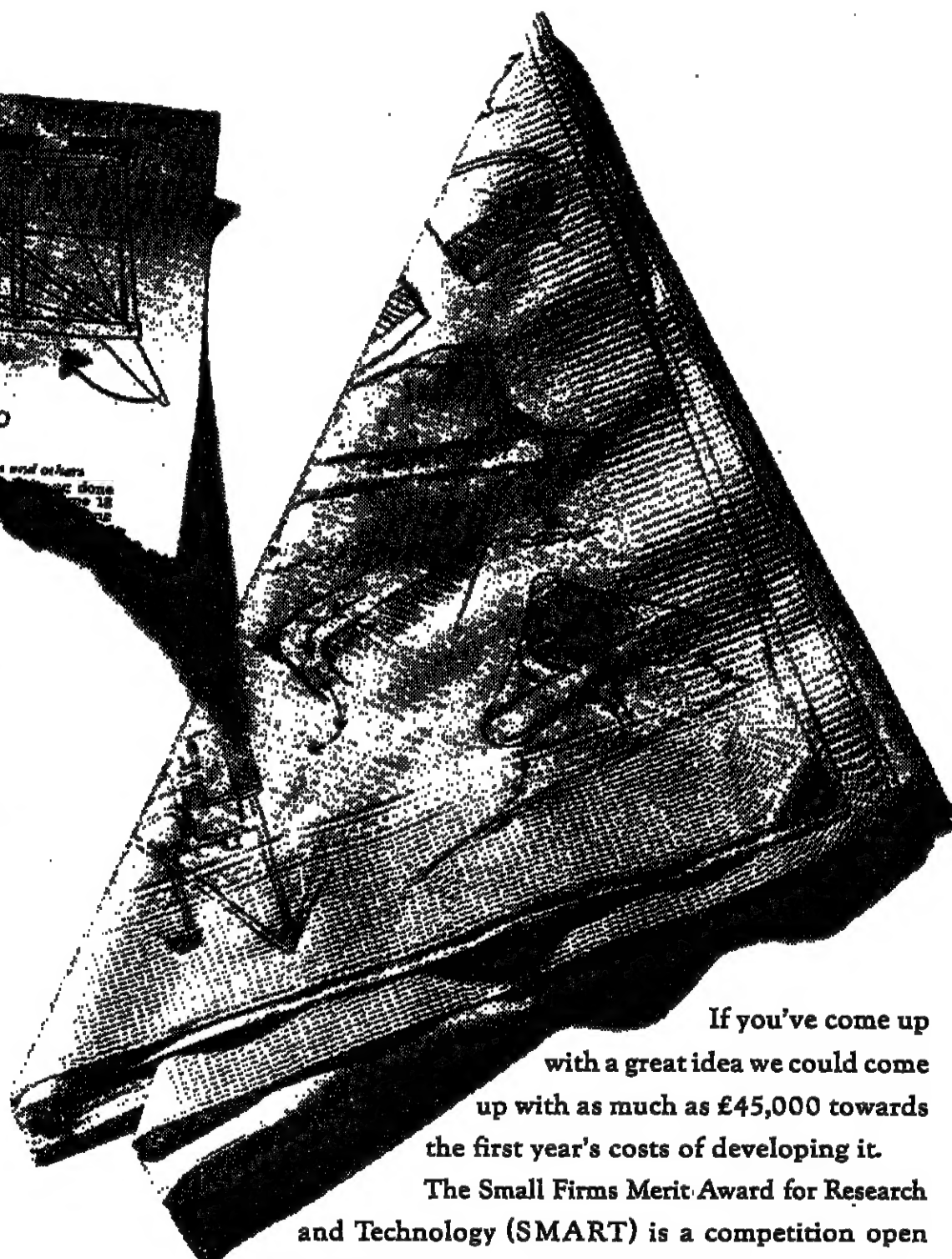
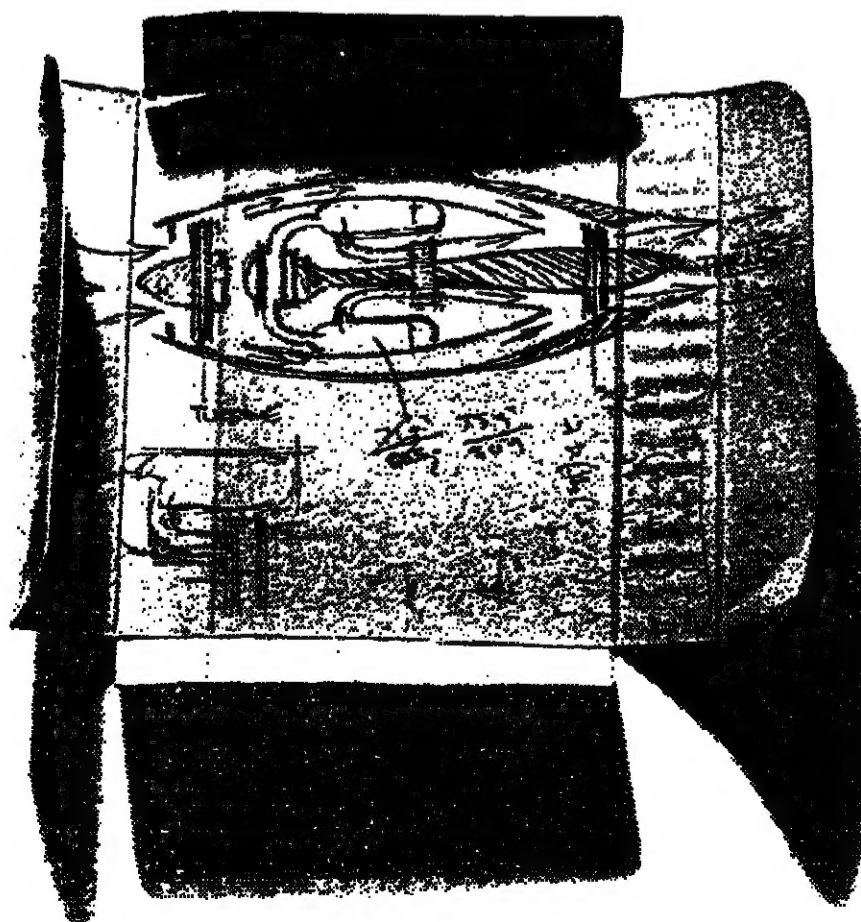
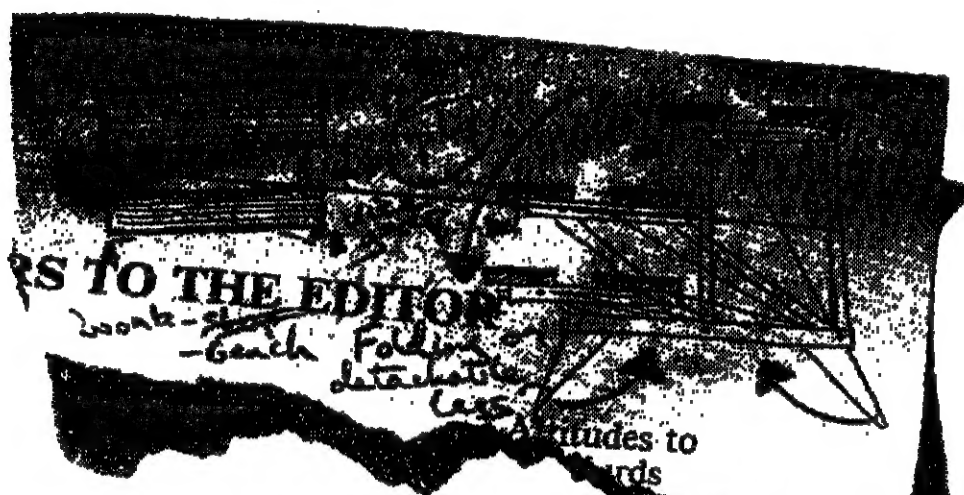
Water costs are to rise by 5p a day for consumers in the Severn-Trent area. A 15 per cent increase in charges means householders will pay £138 a year from April compared to an average of £120.

## Security call

Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West, called yesterday for an urgent security review after a burglar broke into an official residence in Cardiff where a judge and his wife were staying.

## Jet abandoned

Manchester airport is to sell a BAC 1-11 jet abandoned three years ago by an airline belonging to a Nigerian chief. The aircraft will be sold for £150,000 to settle £20,000 landing and parking costs.



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## Million jobs hang in the balance, Labour survey says

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

THE government is facing renewed pressure for an immediate cut in interest rates with the publication today of a Labour party survey claiming that 1,000 jobs are being lost every working day.

Nearly a million jobs hang in the balance, and unemployment will rise above two million this month or next, according to a detailed nationwide analysis of job losses and jobs threatened presented by Henry McLeish, an Opposition employment spokesman.

The survey comes as Conservative MPs join Labour in calling for interest rate reductions, and as ministers urge their colleagues to hold their nerve, promising cuts over the next few months.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, led the demands yesterday, calling for a cut this week of one percentage point. On BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme he said: "The longer they are delayed, the longer the damage is going to be to industry and hard-pressed mortgage payers". On the same programme Tony

Speller, Conservative MP for Devon North, said: "The patient is actually drowning and the patient is the small farmer, the small business, the small workshop. They are drowning in a sea of debt."

The Labour survey, based on a comprehensive analysis of specific job losses and job threats across the country in the last quarter of last year, finds that the recent CBI estimate of 80,000 job losses in the first quarter of this year is conservative and suggests that the figure is likely to be nearer 100,000.

Mr McLeish said: "This points to a deepening recession which looks likely to be as severe as the one in the early Eighties. As investment falls, bankruptcies increase, vacancies slump, unemployment rises and job losses accelerate the government offers no way out. A new industry policy is needed which combines a stable financial environment with new regional policies, supply-side initiatives and a partnership approach to rebuild our economic base."

The Labour survey revealed a total of 61,743 job losses, one of the highest quarterly figures since the mid-Eighties and a sharp increase over the previous quarter. Two regions, the North-West (12,394) and the South-East (12,954) account for 42 per cent of the losses. Manufacturing jobs accounted for 63 per cent of the losses.

The analysis found a further 740,000 jobs under threat: added to the 201,000 found in its survey of the previous quarter, nearly a million jobs are at risk.

Ministers are urging MPs privately to show patience and assuring them that better times are ahead. In the Commons on Tuesday, John Major held out the prospect of a sustained reduction of interest rates as inflation declined. The speech of Norman Lamont, the chancellor, in a Commons debate next Wednesday on the autumn statement will be closely watched for any clues as to the government's intentions.

Yesterday Mr Major told a Tory backbencher that the



Smith demanding one-point cut in rate this week

exchange-rate mechanism was in no sense a straitjacket. "If the pound were falling we would not be able to cut interest rates whether we were in or out of the ERM. The stability that the mechanism provides will help in due course and not hinder."

He was speaking after Ian

Taylor (Fisher, C) said at Commons question time that, despite the recent rise in German interest rates, stability of sterling against the deutschmark indicated "increasing confidence in the government's determination to bring down inflation within the exchange-rate discipline".

## Peers back away from challenge on sick pay bill

By John Winder

THE House of Lords climbed down last night from its challenge to the government over sick pay, but was warned that the Commons might extend their privilege over financial matters at the expense of the peers.

The Lords accepted without a vote a Commons claim that their privilege in financial matters meant that the Lords could not reverse a main point of the Statutory Sick Pay bill. Lords amendments would have shifted to the exchequer the costs of government changes to sick pay instead of charging them to employers.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, a former Conservative pensions minister, said that a year ago, financial privilege could not have been invoked. Privilege figured only when a change was to be made on the consolidated fund. A year ago such a change would have fallen on the national insurance, now the social fund where financial privilege would not have arisen.

"This House should be a little vigilant in future to see whether there are further extensions of the financial privilege of the Commons and

therefore further limitations of the powers of this House are not introduced."

Lord Henley, junior social security minister, said that there would have been a public cost of £100 million and the involvement of privilege was entirely a matter for the authorities of the Commons, not for the government.

"It is inescapable in the final analysis that the matter must be decided on the single point of the financial privileges exercised by the Commons."

Lord Carter, for the Opposition, said that it was not a good reason for employers facing heavy extra costs.

"This has been a textbook exercise in how not to introduce and handle legislation. We can only hope that the government will have learnt from it."

Lord Boyd-Carpenter agreed on that and on the demerits of the legislation, but said that the Lords would not be wise to press the matter further in face of the privilege claim.

Lord Mottistone, another Conservative peer, said that this was a rather cowardly way to tackle the situation, but the Lords could not repeat its defeat of the government. Maternity pay and industrial injuries pay were vulnerable to similar action.

Lady Seear, for the Liberal Democrats, said that many issues discussed in the Lords involved money and their powers could be limited gradually and inevitably.

"The government rejection of the change shows how little they understand the position of small firms and business as a whole at present."

Lady Phillips (Lab) said that the Lords was constantly under challenge but had the epitome of wisdom and people with background and all the skills.

She had had many letters from small firms asking her to plead with the government to remove the extra costs of sick pay from them. "It is not for me to tell them how to get votes, but this exactly the way they will lose credence."



## Award for Alf Morris

Alf Morris, Labour front-bench spokesman on the disabled, was made an officer of the Order of Australia yesterday, the first British MP to receive such an Australian award.

Mr Morris, who was honoured two years ago by New Zealand, is chairman of the Anzac group of MPs and peers and played an important role in the legislation passed last year enabling the public record copy of the Australian constitution to be given to Australia. He was the proposer of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, on which much of New Zealand's legislation for the disabled is based.

## Gulf refusal

Labour left-wingers pressed without success during business questions yesterday for a further Commons debate on the Gulf war. Tony Benn, MP for Chesterfield, accused the government of preventing discussion of mass carpet bombing in Iraq and Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, called for a debate on internment.

## Security query

The first annual report of the security services commissioner, due on December 18, has still not been published, Rupert Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, said at business questions. John MacGregor, Leader of the House, promised to investigate.

## Africa visit

Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, leaves tomorrow for a visit to Mozambique and South Africa to review British aid programmes.

## Tory chief whip in Lords to resign

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

LORD Denham has told John Major that he wants to resign as the government's chief whip in the Lords later this year after 30 years on the front bench.

The hereditary peer, universally known as "Bertie", has made clear to the prime minister that he does not want to outstay his welcome and would like to hand over to his successor before the next general election.

He has mentioned May or June as his choice of time to go, but has told colleagues that he will leave earlier if that is more convenient to the government. Some ministers believe he was lucky to survive the last couple of reshuffles, but they have never underestimated his political shrewdness. He has always made clear that he wanted to go in his own time.

Lord Denham succeeded his father in 1948 and was only 34 when he was first appointed a Lords whip. The first Major government has brought home to him that, at 63, he is one of the oldest office holders in Parliament. The new leader of the Lords, Lord Waddington, is 61 and the only cabinet minister older than the Lords chief whip is Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, by three months.

The thriller-writing peer is the longest serving chief whip in either House, having spent 12 years in his present office. Without the weapon of patronage available to Commons whips, the task of whipping Tory peers is a more subtle art. Lord Denham uses a unique formula of geniality, gin and a bit of public-school-style bullying.

Always swift to defend himself when the government suffered defeats in the Lords, he would argue that his job was to bring them in not tell them how to vote.

He takes seriously the continuing role of the Lords in the twentieth century on the basis that, however anachronistic it might appear, "it works".

Favourite as his successor is Lord Hesketh, the industry minister, although the deputy chief whip, Lord Davidson, is also being considered.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill, second reading. Tuesday: British Technology Group bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debate on the chancellor's autumn statement. Thursday: Debates on Opposition motions on farming and on fishing. Friday: Private member's bill.

Badgers bill, second reading. The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Tuesday: Debate on the economy. Wednesday: NHS debate. Thursday: Debate on EC shipping measures.

Parliament today Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Public Safety Information bill and Registered Homes (Amendment) bill, second readings.

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## Bush sends an upbeat signal on early end to recession

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

PRESIDENT Bush has sent an optimistic message to the American people, expressing his belief that there will be an early end to the economic recession which, with the Gulf war, is the country's chief obsession. It would not be too much to say that Mr Bush's hopes of a second term as president depend on a swift and successful end to both.

Mr Bush's re-election campaign will start rolling later this year, once the outcome of the Gulf conflict is clear. Until then he is reluctant to sound political rather than presidential about a war in which many thousands of young Americans may die even though he has "never been more certain of anything in my life" than he is of an allied victory.

The economy, however, is a safe partisan issue. "Make no mistake," he told thousands of business executives gathered for dinner at the Economic Club of New York on Wednesday night. "The current recession does not signal any decline in the fundamental, long-term health or basic vitality of our economy. America is a can-do nation."

Mr Bush's upbeat message came as his presidency, as a result of his decision three weeks ago to take military action against President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, rides a wave of public support unparalleled in modern American history. But, for all the outpouring of patriotism across the country, Mr Bush is dogged by criticism that he has neglected domestic affairs,

most notably the economy, in his undisguised preference for the more glamorous foreign arena.

Aside from the war and the recession, the administration is also plagued by fears that a fragile American banking system could blow up into a political nightmare similar to that engendered by the collapse of the savings and loan (thrift) industry.

The administration, which opposes government spending to boost the economy, has stepped up pressure in past weeks on the Federal Reserve Board, the independent central bank, to help bring about a swift recovery by lowering interest rates.

Mr Bush will give his annual presidential report on the economy next week. It is likely to dwell on his administration's budget proposals for next year and this week's long-awaited release of the most sweeping proposals since the Great Depression to overhaul the banking industry, including federal deposit insurance.

So far the Democrat-led Congress, mindful of the so-called "S&L disaster", has reacted coolly to the Treasury's proposals to reduce the barriers that have traditionally separated banking from other businesses. As a leader voted into office promising peace and prosperity after the go-go economic growth and US-Soviet rapprochement of the Reagan 1980s, Mr Bush is counting as much on the "mild and brief" recession predicted by his economic advisers as on the successful liberation of Kuwait for a second term in the White House.

On Wednesday night he predicted that the recession would end in "a couple of quarters" and would give way to a robust economy. The president tried to reassure Americans that they should not cancel travel or holiday plans because of terrorist threats and urged them to have more faith in their economy.

The scapegoat for the recession is the Iraqi leader, blamed by Mr Bush for tipping America's already weakening economy over the edge when he invaded Kuwait and sent oil prices soaring.

But Mr Bush faces a tougher task in persuading the public to trust his economic outlook than he did in winning their support for his Gulf policy. Consumer spending has fallen dramatically as job losses have averaged more than 200,000 a month over the past four months, bringing the unemployment rate to 6.2 per cent last month and dashing hopes for a short and shallow recession.

Summing up the national mood, a newspaper shop in central Washington began selling a new T-shirt with the slogan "Recession" and a graph depicting a tiny bar for consumer spending, a far larger one for Congress and an enormous bar for the federal government's bailout of the S & Ls.

## Threat by Winnie Mandela

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

WINNIE Mandela yesterday issued a chilling threat to whites to stay out of a black township where a dozen people have been killed and scores made homeless in deadly clashes since the weekend. Addressing a rally at Bekkersdal, about 25 miles southeast of Johannesburg, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress deputy president, said: "Any white person who comes here to interfere with us or who comes to preach peace — that person must not leave Bekkersdal alive. Their wives and mothers will have to fetch them as corpses."

It was the most vitriolic speech Mrs Mandela has delivered since her call in Soweto three years ago — which has been a continual embarrassment to the ANC — to liberate the country with "our matches and neckties", referring to the killing of suspected government sympathisers by placing a burning petrol-filled tyre around their necks.

Extra troops and police have been sent to Bekkersdal, where months of tension between supporters of the ANC and the black consciousness Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) exploded last weekend. The fiery remarks by Mrs Mandela, whose trial on kidnapping and assault charges resumes in Johannesburg next Monday, were seen as referring particularly to the extra security force presence.

The rally in the township soccer stadium was addressed by representatives of Azapo, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Zulu Inkatha movement and the ANC, who made a joint call for peace.

Tension rose before the rally started when ANC marshals insisted on searching their political rivals before admitting them to the stadium. Police and troops kept a close watch but did not intervene.

Speakers blamed the violence on "the Bors and the apartheid government". Mrs Mandela, addressing the crowd in both English and Xhosa, declared: "Your spears should be pointed in the direction of Pretoria. Our enemy is in Pretoria. We have never had enemies within ourselves. We are all here because of our fight for freedom. The enemy come here to exploit our differences."

"We are normal human beings, we all have our differences and it is healthy to have debate among ourselves. But we are not going to allow the brute boys to come and exploit us."

Centrist coalition: Zach de Beer, the leader of South Africa's Democratic Party, has proposed a broad-based, centrist coalition as the best format for sharing power in the post-apartheid era (Gavin Bell writes from Cape Town).

He voiced concern over moves by the National Party government to form a pact with smaller parties to defeat the African National Congress and its allies at the polls. "I think that would be extremely unwise," he said.

He said a government which excluded either the National Party or the ANC would lead to confrontation and instability.



FORMER president Ronald Reagan spoons birthday cake off his dinner jacket at his 80th birthday celebrations in a Beverly Hills hotel, as a laughing Nancy Reagan looks on. He lent against the cake after blowing out the candles at the height of an evening of nostalgia and patriotic pride on Wednesday night, at which Margaret Thatcher joined a host of leading personalities from politics and entertainment to pay him tribute (Charles Bremner writes). Eyes were already misty when Mr Reagan rose for an emotional salute to his "special friend Margaret" who had stood shoulder-to-shoulder with him in reviving

the resolve of the free world in the 1980s. Now the allies were joined in fighting the "madman Saddam Hussein". Mrs Thatcher, who brought her husband and son to the party, said: "The Reagan years were great years for America and the world." And, she remarked, her friend Ron was "quite an incentive to those of us about to start on a new career later in life". She spoke of the "despot" Saddam and noted: "The United States and the United Kingdom, bound by friendship which has long endured and which has never been closer, stand together in the fight as we have stood so often before."

## Leaked document shows split over Nato's future strategy

From Peter Guilford in Brussels

FRESH evidence of disarray among Nato nations over the future role of the alliance emerged in a confidential document leaked yesterday.

It allegedly records how Nato's strategy-makers are still divided over how to react collectively to the Gulf war and other regional conflicts, and over Nato's relations with its former Cold War enemies. It also exposes a split over how far Europe should look after its own defence, without the direct participation of America.

News of such a split could hardly come at worse time, coinciding as it does with a Franco-German call for a common European defence policy which the British government fears would leave America out in the cold and undermine the very existence of Nato. Paris and Bonn are calling for an effective merger between the European Community and the Western European Union, integrating the two bodies

at all levels under a joint presidency. Britain and the Netherlands have deep reservations about the plan.

Nato played down the damning reports of disunity among its members yesterday claiming that there was still "a great deal of consensus". A spokesman admitted "some questions remain open", although he flatly denied that key discussions between the 16 Nato ambassadors, aimed at reshaping Nato strategy by the summer, had run aground.

The confidential document leaked to Reuters yesterday and prepared last December summarises a series of "brain-storming" meetings between the ambassadors at the express wish of Manfred Wörner, the secretary-general. The spokesman called the document an "interim report on the progress of Nato's strategy review" and described the "frank expression of views" within it as "a vital part of Nato's decision-

making process". He added that the summary had already been presented to the Nato foreign ministers.

But the document will do little to restore confidence in the alliance at a time when it is struggling for a fresh identity after defending the West against the perceived expansionist might of the Soviet Union for 40 years.

The Gulf war has exposed divisions over how active a role Nato should play outside the territory of its member countries. Herr Wörner's interim report portrays this as perhaps the greatest test of all for the alliance. France is wary of extending the powers of Nato, believing it to be dominated too heavily by the Americans. Britain and America disagree, believing Nato could at least use its military assets to supply troops in the Gulf and other regional conflicts, although Nato forces would not actually fight outside alliance territory.

## Russia agrees to poll on unity

From Mary Delevsky in Moscow

THE Russian Federation parliament voted yesterday to approve the nationwide referendum on the future of the Soviet Union, but cleared the way for additional questions that would enhance the power of the republic and its president, Boris Yeltsin. Russia's decision to support the referendum will be a small consolation for President Gorbachev.

The referendum, which is planned for March 17, asks: "Do you consider it necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal sovereign republics, in which human rights and freedoms will be guaranteed to persons of any nationality?"

The question has come in for widespread criticism, both for its complexity and for the presumption that a continued union should necessarily be Soviet and socialist. But few parliamentary deputies yesterday challenged whether the referendum should be held. Mr Yeltsin said that he was, and had always been, in favour of the Soviet Union remaining one country, and most reformist deputies were concerned only to ensure that Russia also gained some benefit from the exercise.

Two additional questions were proposed: one requesting approval for a directly elected president, the second asking whether the Russian Federation should be preserved as a single republic, including the areas populated by ethnic minority groups which have semi-autonomous status. Mr Yeltsin, whose hands would be tied by a "yes" to that question, proposed replacing it with one closer to his heart: "Do you approve of buying and selling land?"

In December the Russian parliament sanctioned private land ownership, but not sales. The assembly, invariably split between conservatives and radicals, failed to agree on which questions to include and delegated the decision to the committee organising the referendum.

The original purpose of the referendum, when it was agreed in December, was to give Mr Gorbachev a popular mandate (however contrived) to push through his new union treaty. He had hoped to have the treaty signed by the end of last year, but has encountered fierce opposition from at least seven of the Soviet Union's 15 republics. Now at least six republics, including the three Baltic republics, have said they will boycott the referendum and Mr Gorbachev has outlawed Lithuania's separate referendum on independence.

Bugs found: The Russian parliament was told in the opening minutes of yesterday's session that electronic bugging devices had been discovered in Mr Yeltsin's office. According to the report, the equipment was found in one of the rooms of the parliament reserved for the KGB. A parliamentary commission was set up to investigate.

## Chinese attack US rights report

Peking — China attacked the US State Department's report on human rights in the country in 1990, issued last week, as "entirely unacceptable" (Catherine Sampson writes). A foreign ministry spokesman, Li Zhaoxing, said the report was an "unwarranted criticism of, and an unscrupulous interference in, the internal affairs of many countries on the pretext of human rights".

He said: "Since the founding of New China, the Chinese people, as masters of their own country, have enjoyed extensive democratic rights and freedom." Questioned by journalists, he declined to give details of how many people were imprisoned or executed for their part in the democracy movement of spring 1989.

Mr Li spoke as two men awaited sentencing and two others prepared for their trial on charges of trying to overthrow the government. In recent weeks, China has taken advantage of the Gulf war to press ahead with long-delayed trials of political detainees.

Diplomats said yesterday's outburst was a return to a hardline rejection of Western concern on rights. After the visit in December of Richard Schifter, the American Assistant Secretary of State, Chinese officials had refrained from referring to all Western concerns as "gross interference". Some observers suggested China's leaders were upset that the political trials had attracted international criticism despite the war and relatively lenient sentences.

## Pollution fight

Delhi — The authorities in Delhi ordered the immediate closure of nearly 400 factories, a move of desperation by the world's fourth most polluted city. The closures will be a blow to the job-hungry Indian capital. The premises have been declared hazardous, obnoxious or unhygienic, but in reality many factories will bribe their way out of closure.

## Khartoum denial

Khartoum — The Sudanese military government has dismissed as untrue charges by Lynda Chalker, the minister for overseas development, that it is refusing to help its citizens survive famine. Abdallah Muhammad Ahmed, the information minister, added that Mrs Chalker had not been invited to visit Khartoum. (AP)

## Andes landfall

Colorado Springs, Colorado — The 40-tonne Soviet spacecraft Salyut 7, launched in 1982 and abandoned four years ago, plunged late on Wednesday into the Andes mountains in Argentina, near the Chilean border, the US Space Command said here. Commander Charles Connor said: "We are sure parts of it were intact when it hit the ground." (Reuters)

## Burma jail death

Bangkok — Another member of Burma's main opposition party has died in prison and relatives doubt the military government's claim that he died of leukaemia. Burma's state radio said last week that Tin Maung Win, who won a seat in parliament in last May's elections, died on January 18. Diplomats contacted in Rangoon said he died in Insein Jail. (AP)

## 'Dr Death' suicide

Taipei — A Taiwanese undertaker dubbed "Dr Death" after claiming to provide a euthanasia service for the terminally ill killed himself to escape investigation, police said. Li Wenling, the owner of the Direct to Heaven mortuary, gassed himself in his car outside a coffin shop in the city of Chungli after running a rubber hose from the exhaust pipe. (Reuters)

## Shell-shocked

Peking — More than 200,000 student "volunteers" who wielded pickaxes to break the ice and dredge the Summer Palace lake, a popular skating and boating venue here for residents and tourists, had an unpleasant surprise when they reached the bottom and discovered more than 200 unexploded Nationalist artillery shells dating from the 1920s.



Word of welcome: President-elect Aristide meeting Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French leader

## Left-wing priest sworn in as Haitian president

From Associated Press in Port-au-Prince

FATHER Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president, was sworn into office yesterday, five years to the day after the fall of the 29-year Duvalier dictatorship.

The 37-year-old left-wing priest and champion of the poor repeated the oath of office, swearing to uphold the 1987 constitution, in a solemn ceremony in the austere Chamber of Deputies of the Legislative Palace. Dignitaries from 22 nations attended the inauguration, a milestone for the impoverished Caribbean nation that has been ruled by despots virtually since independence from France in 1804.

Speaking in the Creole vernacular used by the masses, Father Aristide raised his right hand and read the oath from the constitution: "I swear before God and the nation to observe and to uphold the constitution and the laws of the republic faithfully, to respect and to protect the rights of the Haitian people, to work for the

grandeur of the fatherland, to maintain national independence and territorial integrity." Afterwards, a woman in peasant dress placed the red and blue presidential sash over Aristide's shoulder.

The ceremony, carried live by state-run television, began about an hour late. Father Aristide, in a light-coloured business suit, arrived at the palace in a white sedan. Well-wishers chanted and sang. He was escorted into the chamber by soldiers in dress uniform and civilian security guards. Before the swearing-in, Jean-Robert Sabatel, president of the independent Electoral Council, thanked foreign governments and others who helped the council "organise and carry through the first free and democratic elections in Haiti".

The senate president, Edwidge Raymond, wearing the traditional black hat of his office, said the date of the inauguration was doubly symbolic. "The 7th of February was the ouster of the

repressive and archaic system which for two centuries prevented the flowering of Haiti," he said. "February 7, 1991, is the beginning of a new era setting up a new political structure that will guarantee a better future."

Before the inauguration, volunteers of all ages swept the streets, filled potholes and painted bright murals. The clean-up is in line with Father Aristide's campaign platform to cleanse the nation of corruption, violence and poverty.

Father Aristide's inauguration falls on the fifth anniversary of the fall of "Baby Doc" Jean-Claude Duvalier, who was toppled in a popular uprising on February 7, 1986. His flight into French exile ended a brutal family reign begun by his father, the late "Papa Doc" Francois Duvalier in 1957. Father Aristide, who campaigned on an anti-Duvalierist platform, was elected on December 16 by a two-thirds majority in the Caribbean nation's first fully democratic election.

## Austrian business sends the cavalry into Croatia

From Richard Bassett in Zagreb

ALONG Zagreb's finest boulevard, the palatial offices which used to house the British consulate-general now fly the Austrian flag.

When the Foreign Office closed down the consulate in Croatia a few years ago, short-sightedly, many Croats believe, the premises were immediately taken over by the Austrian trade mission. While British diplomats in Yugoslavia's capital, Belgrade, lament the absence of the regular reports that a career officer in Zagreb would provide, Austrian

businessmen are rapidly establishing a presence throughout Croatia, preparing for the expected break-up of Yugoslavia.

"We are very grateful that the British moved out and we can enjoy such comfortable and prestigious offices," a member of the trade mission said. Austria sees an opportunity this year to exploit the Yugoslav turmoil to recover former influence over Slovenia and Croatia. Both were part of the Austrian empire for centuries and German remains the most widely spoken second language in both republics.

Austrians, many of whom have distant family ties with people in

the republics, understand Croats and Slovenes. They still refer to Ljubljana by its old German name of Laibach and to Zagreb by its old name of Agram.

As Slovenes and Croats discover their credentials as central Europeans, decided to them by four decades of communist propaganda linking them to Belgrade, sympathy towards Austrians is growing. "The Austrians may be sharp businessmen but they are fellow Europeans, unlike the Balkan Serbs," said Tom Basic, who runs an import-export company in Zagreb.

Unchecked by European Community directives which

prevent formal recognition of Croatia or Slovenia, the Austrians have accorded leaders of both republics the protocol due to heads of state when they have visited Vienna. Austrian diplomats expect to downgrade their embassies in Belgrade into a consulate-general and upgrade their consulates in Zagreb and Ljubljana before the end of the year.

Italy, another country with strong historical ties with Croatia and Slovenia, is eager to follow suit but remains obliged to follow EC policy towards Yugoslavia which, while rejecting military intervention as a means of

holding the multi-ethnic country together, remains committed to a single state.

Unlike the Austrians, however, the Italians appear to have been supplying Croatia with arms in recent months. Special units of the Croatian police are armed with the latest Italian Beretta automatic pistols.

Zagreb's rich cultural heritage, in particular its opera house and art galleries, are being marketed extensively for Austrian consumption. While Yugoslavia's instability is damaging federal tourist enterprises, discreet lobbying by Zagreb Austrian cities is attracting an

increasing number of wealthy guests prepared to pay large amounts to discover uncharted central European attractions. Plaques are appearing on doorways indicating the establishment of new companies with Austrian capital, and with offices in Vienna or Graz.

This week, an Austrian company's public relations officials arrived in Zagreb's largest hotel dressed in old imperial Austrian cavalry uniforms. They had judged their business partners' mood well. Nothing appeals more to the Croats than the history of which they have long been deprived.



Having gone to school in America, I am rather bemused by the dispute among parents and educationists in Britain over schools' treatment of the Gulf war. Teachers' unions even feel that guidelines on "balance" are necessary. British people of my age cannot recall this sort of controversy over the Suez crisis during their school years. The problem arises because imparting knowledge itself is no longer the main aim of schooling.

There is argument, too, over whether history should include current affairs. In my day, American schools were in no doubt that history and civics, as it was called, were two quite different subjects, civics giving you a knowledge of national institutions and practical politics. Both had strict ground rules for objective teaching. (Our teachers went to great lengths to avoid revealing their own political preferences.) In civics lessons, we used the same discipline as we did for other subjects.

Whether we were researching

Janet Daley argues against current-affairs lessons that are not based on knowledge

## Schools of uninformed thought

the bills coming before our state legislature or staging debates on social issues, we were urged to take up positions purely for the sake of argument. It was to help us develop into informed citizens that we were encouraged to play devil's advocate and explore all possible positions. We might have been arguing about the merits (or demerits) of the political party favoured by our parents or about a civil rights demonstration in which we had taken part. But this was school, and the point of these activities was to instil in us the principles of political debate in a free society.

Because civics was a respectable school discipline, it had academic standards. Half-baked opinion

was not to be confused with sound argument; allegations had to be substantiated by evidence; vague moral inclinations were no substitute for plausible proposals.

All that, of course, was 30 years ago. American schools have changed a lot since then. Group therapy has now become more of a goal in the classroom than inculcating abstract principles. And it is this idea of education as social therapy that British schools have adopted in the place of didactic instruction. The "instructional" model is now (as a glance at the *Times Educational Supplement* will make clear) derided. It has been replaced by project-based teaching that dissolves the boundaries of individual disciplines.

Along with the old disciplines have gone the critical frameworks that underpinned them. The school curriculum now revolves around topics the educational value of which is measured by their relevance. What you consider relevant to a child's (or a society's) needs depends, of course, on your own predispositions or those of educational fashion. That it might be worthwhile for children to have some conception of the value of things with no immediate relevance has no place in the new approach.

In a recent television interview, a primary head teacher, commenting on schools' ability to deal with contemporary issues, said that primary school geography teaching

now concerned itself with the topics of pollution and third-world poverty — the inter-disciplinary study of which sounds like a recipe for a muddle of half-understood economics with political ideology and media obsessions.

A survey education inspector, quoted in *The Times Educational Supplement* last week, cited as appropriate primary-class projects for economics and business studies "Why some people like money" and "Why some people have to live in cardboard boxes". The inspector showed no awareness of the tendentiousness of these suggestions, or even of why tendentiousness was to be avoided in education.

If relevance and personal expression are to be the priorities in the classroom, discussion of the war will hardly enlarge children's knowledge of the historical background. They will never learn the facts that would help them to judge this and any future Middle East conflict.

Instead, teachers encourage formless discussion which revolves around the children's own confused feelings. What is to be expected (apart from the clashing of home-grown prejudices) from the exercise of asking a class of eight-year-olds whether they support the war, and then comparing the responses of the Muslim and non-Muslim children? Primary school teachers with whom I have

discussed this technique believe it to be helpful to the children: bringing their differences into the open is said to relieve their anxieties and help them understand each other.

What has happened to the idea (which everyone in education once saw themselves as fostering) that before you could express an informed opinion on something, you had to be knowledgeable about it, and that uninformed opinion was, at best, a waste of time, at worst positively dangerous? School used not to be an arena for ill-informed personal feelings, but a place where children absorbed the knowledge that could sustain rational argument.

Once you have discredited the idea of transmitting knowledge, dismantled the framework of disciplined enquiry and dismissed the need for valid argument, the educational resources that remain for dealing with a divisive crisis look pretty thin. My old civics teacher would have been reduced to despair.

## A peril that haunts every leader

Daniel Johnson on the political assassin's long place in history

Dictionaries of quotations will record John Major's heretically plegmatic reaction to the attempt upon his life and that of his cabinet colleagues yesterday: "I think we had better start again somewhere else." There is no precedent for this baptism of fire, which has obliged this least experienced of recent prime ministers to endure first a war and now an attempted assassination within three months of attaining office. But Mr Major is not the first politician to have lived in the proximity of death. How have earlier leaders coped with the psychological burden?

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is the starting point for any consideration of the problem. Security was not neglected in Rome — hence the political role of the Praetorian Guard — but among his peers the great Julius evidently felt at ease. Only the "lean and hungry" Cassius disturbed him. This obligation to trust those close at hand remains today: in civilised societies leaders must trust their colleagues, and only those whose treatment of their associates has been abysmal — Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Saddam Hussein spring to mind — normally have reason to fear death from that quarter.

Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* deals with the manifest threat of assassination by repressing fear. Most politicians today have this avenue closed to them: the appurtenances of security accompany them from the moment they assume responsibility, and depart only when they die. Salman Rushdie's readiness to come to terms bears eloquent testimony to the crushing impact of such incessant security on a man whose life as a writer had not prepared him for the additional loneliness imposed by the permanent presence of detectives and the accompanying loss of privacy.

Of course some rulers have

responded to their position as sitting ducks with wry humour. Kaiser Wilhelm I, the octogenarian German emperor, lost most of his blood when he was shot by a deranged anarchist, Dr Nobeling (the second attempt on his long life). The old boy lived for several more years, and is said to have praised his would-be assassin: "The only doctor who really knew what I needed: a good blood-letting!" Bismarck, who escaped scot free, wholeheartedly agreed.

The Kaiser's "phlebotomy" was only one incident in a whole spate of attacks which make the 1880s a watershed in the history of assassination. Russia, America, Ireland and many other countries were shaken by this wave, and ever since then the messianic ideologies of left and right have made terrorism their peculiar weapon.

The murder of politicians by trained assassins hoping to further a political cause must, of course, be distinguished from the attempt to kill the opposing commander in the midst of battle, which traditional rules of war allow. Nelson famously suffered this fate at the hands of French sharpshooters, though Napoleon seems to have enjoyed a kind of charmed existence — perhaps because his opponents saw him as, in Clausewitz's words, "the god of war himself".

Yet exceptions are legion. Wallenstein, the overnight imperial general during the Thirty Years' War, was butchered in cold blood by Irish mercenaries at his master's behest. Rommel was similarly forced to commit suicide by Hitler.

But the general or admiral who routinely risks death, whether glorious or ignominious, does so with the moral support of the accumulated wisdom and training of his profession. Royal dynasties likewise have their traditional mode of confronting mortal danger: from Charles I to George VI,



an unbroken tradition has equipped British monarchs to face the possibility of violent death. A democratically elected prime minister is necessarily less well prepared. Security, when taken to extremes, can be a substitute for the self-assurance that stems from breeding.

Since the advent of modern terrorism turned security into a growth industry, there have been ideologically-motivated attempts, especially in countries which profess non-violence as a principle, to flout the new constraints. Mahatma Gandhi's death was a consequence of such populist defiance; so, perhaps, was Indira Gandhi's murder two generations later. In the smaller European countries, indifference to personal safety was common until quite recently. Garret FitzGerald, the former Irish premier, was notoriously disdainful of security while in office. But such "little European" insouciance has vanished since Olaf Palme's murder.

Even more than America, Germany has lately suffered a disturbing series of assassinations. The head of Deutsche Bank was murdered, the federal interior minister was left paralysed from the waist down, and the leader of the opposition's jocular was narrowly missed. Where the

stakes are high, blood flows readily. The German political class is now wiser than ever of contact with the public. Terrorist gangs are less feared than lonely fanatics or psychopaths.

In Britain, which has endured the most sustained terrorist campaign of modern times, senior politicians talk about the possibility of assassination rather than apocalyptic talk about the Devil. Yet the direct threat to their own lives — and especially since the Brighton bomb — those of their immediate relatives, has added an existential anxiety to the exigencies of office.

Mrs Thatcher, above all, bears the invisible scars of this secret war. A number of her friends have died horribly or been mutilated; she herself escaped death by the narrowest of margins. Her public resilience, which masks unfeigned private grief, should not deceive anyone with a little imagination.

John Major now joins the select club of politicians who have come close to death and survived. Not physical pain — a serious accident had long ago injured him to that — but mental anguish is the danger to which this sensitive family man might prove vulnerable. So far he has acquitted himself with unassuming grandeur.

## At the double, and be sharp about it

Philip Howard

General Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf speaks: "It's a scenario-dependent." I take this to be a polite way of saying: "Wait and see."

War produces 77 types of ambiguity, as so-called "simple soldiers" are exposed to the so-called "relentless spotlight" of the media. The Duke of Wellington would never have put up with such civilian intrusion, but then, he did not have to fight his wars under mass democracies, whipped on by ambitious politicians, themselves whipped on by television. So the Gulf war has reinforced the ambiguity euphemistic, as in "friendly fire", to describe being shot up by one's own side by mistake, and to "degrade" as a cool way to describe grinding down by bombardment.

We have invented a new ambiguity phonetic, with the American pronunciation of missile, in a way that must alarm Roman Catholics by its equivocation. Pointing to a chart the other day, Stormin' Norman drew our attention to an offshore "booby" that marked an Iraqi minefield for unwary British, whose pronunciation of booby is already a phonetic ambiguity. The Pentagon official who said, "The ante is upped", was ambiguous only to those prudent folk who do not play poker.

Ambiguity lies at the heart of language and of the premier division of language, poetry. Let us not confuse ambiguity with the fashionable word of psychoanalysis and Lit Crit, ambivalence. Ambivalence is a concept introduced by the early psychologists to describe the co-existence in one person of contradictory emotions or attitudes (such as love and hatred) towards a person or thing.

It was not as original as they supposed. *Odi et amo* was written by a poet 20 centuries before Freud: I hate and I love. And if you ask me how, I do not know. I only feel it, and I'm torn in two. All that ambivalence means is having equal strength, usually in contrary or parallel directions. Typewriters and word-processors should be programmed to set off a little alarm when the characters of ambivalence are typed, and to flash up the question: "Is this exactly what you mean, or are you simply showing off?"

Ambiguity is the older word. It means having a double meaning, shifting, uncertain, and it comes

ultimately from the Latin verb meaning to go round. When the word is used properly, ambiguous means that a word or expression has two (or more) different meanings. It should not be used to mean vague.

Bald is a vague epithet (how many hairs can a bald man have and still be considered bald?), but it is not ambiguous. Ambiguous applies to terms, vagueness to concepts. If you are going to claim that a word is ambiguous, you ought to be able to specify the differences in meaning that you have in mind. Funny is ambiguous. It can be funny ha-ha, or funny peculiar.

"Bank" can mean the raised ridge that keeps a river within

**'Ambiguity is inherent in any language more complex than grunts, and even a grunt can be ambiguous'**

bounds and stops it spilling over into the surrounding fields, or a tier of oars in an ancient rowing-boat, or the place you go to cash cheques and whence you receive wounding letters about your overdraft. In the view of philologists, these three banks are three separate words, because their etymologies are different.

Such words, especially when treated as one word with different meanings, are called equivocal. "How absolute the knife is! We must speak by the card, or equivocation will undo us."

Systematic ambiguity occurs when a word has the same sort of meaning when applied to another kind of thing. An example, given by Aristotle, who first drew attention to this vexing phenomenon in words, concerns the word "healthy". Both plants and people can be healthy. Bury St Edmunds may (or may not) be more healthy than Bury in Lancashire. Mr Longbottom may (or may not) be more healthy than Mrs Long-

bottom. But it makes no sense to ask whether Bury St Edmunds is more healthy than Mrs Longbottom — except in poetry, where ambiguity is a tool of the trade.

Healthy is an ambiguous word, which has senses that differ but are related. A healthy body is a flourishing one, while a healthy climate produces or preserves health, and a healthy complexion is a sign of it. Healthy is said to have a focal meaning. Its ambiguous senses focus on one dominant sense.

Words like "big" are ambiguous, because it makes a difference to know what standards we are applying. A big mouse is not a big animal, and is different in category from a big mouse, unless you are talking to an Aberdonian. In wartime, words like "battle" suffer from this type of ambiguity. A battle can range in bigness from the "battle for Khalji" to Armageddon.

Phrases or sentences can be ambiguous, although none of the words in them is so. For example, in a "little girl's camp" we cannot tell whether the camp or the girls are little. They have just put up a sign in Holland Park: "Dogs must be kept on leads on this road." Well, I see what they have in mind, but the sign could mean that each dog must have several leads attached to it — a prudent precaution with some undisciplined hounds I meet at crack of dawn in the park. This kind of syntactical ambiguity is called an amphiboly, a sentence whose meaning is doubtful or confusing.

"He rode a horse with a muzzel on his mouth" conjures up two different pictures. There is an ambiguity in the construction of the sentence. "Save rags and waste paper" can be understood two ways. It is an amphiboly, amphiboly, a most ingenious amphiboly. And so was the notorious headline in *The Times* during the second world war: "Fifth Army push bottles up Germans".

Ambiguity is inherent in any language more complex than grunts; and even a grunt can be ambiguous. It is the source of poetry and philosophy as well as of propaganda and deception. War brings new ambiguities to our attention. But we should always be on red alert for the stuff when reading or writing, listening or speaking.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

It is September 1940, and a man is standing on the very cusp of post-lapsarian France. Indeed, it is possible that his left foot stands on the occupied north, his right on the Vichy south, but what he is standing on is not as important as what he is standing in. Because we are at Pauillac, just north of Bordeaux and both the epicentre and apogee (if the purer geometrics among you will grant me that licence) of the trade to which the city gives its name. It will not, therefore, surprise you to hear that the man is standing in a vat. For the 1940 *vendange* has just been gathered, and he is poised to jump about on it.

It has been a funny old year for him. When the plump items beneath his toes were naught but a pip in their fathers' eye, the first of that sequence of events was precipitated which was so rapidly to bring Rommel and Guderian and all their jolly *Kameradschaft* blitzing down the road towards him, casting (for he is a practical fellow) grave doubts on the imminent vintage: since, when it comes to pressing grapes, nothing can hold a candle to a Tiger tank.

He need not have worried: connoisseurs all, the German high command was never going to shell claret. They were not going to churn up Lafite, nor have their Stukas dive onto Margaux, for there is no point whatever in occupying France if there's nothing to drink but parachuted Riesling. That is why they hit the brakes just outside Pauillac on that June afternoon, and sensibly waited

for Pétain to chuck in the towel.

Let us now leave our hero there, with his trousers rolled up, and move the scene half a century forward to January 1991 and the basement of Selfridge's. For it is here that Sean, pie in the hand, is holding a charity auction of rare wines, to which they have invited, among others, a fool and his money. Much comes and goes under the gavel, wondrous '61s and '66s and '70s, calculated to slip down a treat that chocking on the price would instantly be forgotten, but the fool does not bid for any of these. He is waiting for a bottle of Château Dubart-Milon to come up, a fourth-growth Pauillac of which he knows nothing except that its label bears the date 1940. The fool has never drunk a 1940 claret, and when the moment comes, he bids with such sociopathic ferocity that underbidders end up counting themselves fortunate not to have been bigger fools than he is, for it is a long way home in the dark, if you are carrying a bottle of which you have deprived a madman.

Not that your homeward worries are any the less if you are the madman. You begin to wonder how you will ever get around to drinking something this rare, not to say this expensive. Old wines are not like olive olives: you do not bring home a T'ang horse and hit it with a hammer, you do not run back from Sotheby's with a Chippendale chair and immediately bang it on the fire, but you cannot enjoy an antique wine unless you destroy it. And how, precisely, will you go about

destroying it? What meal could

match it? Which of your friends will you invite to share it, which will you offend by not inviting?

But most to the point, what do you do when you get it home, rush to your wine-books, and discover that the authorities speak with one voice on the 1940 vintage, which is that "wartime circumstances made it untrustworthy"? Well, if you have the presumption, you ring Jancis Robinson in the hope that she will say it is not untrustworthy at all, but Jancis too says it could be great, it could be terrible; either way, drink it quickly after you've opened it, because it could die within a few minutes, and you ring off, and you look at it. Not going to be much of an evening, ask three friends over for five minutes, pull the cork, get that down you, what do you think, great, terrible, good-night.

Which is why a month has now passed, with the cork still in. During which time I have given more thought to the untrustworthiness of the 1940 vintage. Might it possibly depend on whether the bloke standing in the Dubart-Milon vat was a patriot or a collaborator? If you thought that what you were about to tread was going to end up lubricating the Nazi gullet, would you try to ensure that it was as delicious as possible, or would you, how shall I put it, take advantage of the fact that you were about to be waist-deep in what the bastard wouldn't see until his batman sloshed it into the regimental crystal?

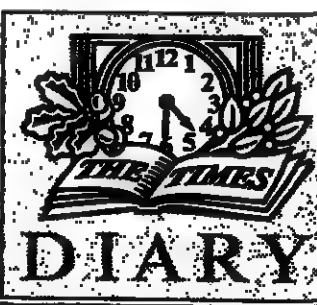
## When Thatcher got a rocket

Yesterday's mortar attack induced a certain amount of certainty of words — but mostly a stunned silence among those who had previously deprecated the 10 ft security gates at the end of Downing Street. When they were installed in 1989, Mrs Thatcher was subjected to a barrage of criticism, mostly from Labour but also, in some instances, from her own side.

She was accused of harbouring delusions of presidential grandeur at taxpayers' expense. Dennis Skinner likened Downing Street to "the fortress of Madame Ceausescu". Neil Kinnock pledged that when he made it to Number Ten, the gates would be removed. And Lord St John of Fawley, a former cabinet minister, declared: "The prime minister is not the head of state, and to treat her as though she were would raise public criticism and hostility."

The attacks deeply wounded Mrs Thatcher, not merely because they were so personal, but because the decision to erect the gates was taken purely on the advice of the security services, who, rightly it now seems, were becoming increasingly concerned for the prime minister's safety.

Most of her critics were understandably silent yesterday. Asked if a Labour prime minister would now want the gates to remain, a Kinnock aide said: "At the moment we will be saying nothing." Dennis Skinner said: "It was impossible to get into Downing Street before the gates were installed. The police would stop you." Even if you were a determined terrorist? "I don't want to comment," he replied — surely the first time the Beast of Bolsover has been lost for words, and a sign of the shock pervading all sides at Westminster.



Not quite universal

British troops in the Gulf will not now have the opportunity of a little spiritual uplift from the Catholic weekly *The Universe*. A plan to send a thousand copies of today's issue has been dropped on the advice of the MoD, for fear of offending Muslim Saudi Arabia. Ann Knowles, the editor, had made elaborate arrangements to have the papers air-freighted to the front line following an encouraging response from readers who supplied the names of soldiers. Paulinus Barnes, the news editor, says the paper is disappointed by the MoD advice. "We are trying to encourage cooperation between Christians and Muslims in Britain to ensure that the war does not come between them."

For want of a coin

Garret FitzGerald offered an insight this week into how Lord Kings managed to turn British Airways from loss into profit — but almost caused a rift in Anglo-Irish relations in the process. While Irish prime minister in the mid-1980s, FitzGerald was flying from Washington to London when he received a radio message that the terrorist Dominic McGlinchey had been arrested in the Republic. To sanction extradition proceedings, FitzGerald was asked to contact his office in Dublin as soon as he landed. At Heathrow he hurried to the

first available telephone, but encountered an immovable object in the shape of a British Airways jobsworth. "She would not let me use the telephone unless I paid ten pence," says FitzGerald. "I searched my pockets but had no change. I told her I was the prime minister of the Irish Republic, but she insisted it made no difference and that I pay before using the telephone."

BRITISH AIRWAYS



Overnight sensation

A neglected manuscript from the library at Southampton University has been dusted off and turned into a fine, hand-printed autobiography of Luke Hansard, the founder of parliamentary reporting. Consisting of extensive notes written as a Christmas present for his sons, the work was never published, but was copied at the turn of the century by one of Hansard's descendants. That manuscript disappeared until its discovery two years ago by Simon Lawrence, owner of Fleece Press in Wakefield, who was researching the history of diaries. The result is *Luke Hansard: An Autobiography*, a 160-page volume to be launched today by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, in a limited edition of 250 copies. The book records a late-night

visit during the French Revolution on William Pitt, demanding papers on his desk the following morning. More than 60 of Hansard's printers worked through the night to meet the prime ministerial edict, so establishing the tradition of overnight printing. Since then, scarcely a deadline has been missed.

All-rounder

Undaunted by the furore at the Royal Opera House over recently announced redundancies, Jeremy Isaacs, the general director, is insisting that rumours of his own departure are unfounded. Formerly boss of Channel 4, he has dismissed stories that his involvement in a 26-part TV series on 20th-century world history means that he will shortly return to television.

"I shall be advising, part-time, on the outline of the series, but I want to make it clear that I shall be remaining at the Royal Opera House and nothing will interfere with my full-time work," he says. Indeed, his workload has increased. Despite a petition carrying 500 signatures — including those of the ROH music director, Bernard Haitink, and the principal conductor, Jeffrey Tate — Isaacs insists that Ewen Balfour, the now redundant director of public affairs, will not be reinstated. Isaacs will handle press queries himself, which he did yesterday with charm and courtesy — though it had taken three days to get hold of him.

● *Ennity at Friends of the Earth.* The Hong Kong branch has been expelled because of its close relationship with Shell, which pays for its educational programme and finances its magazine in return for advertising space. The rest of FoE is involved in a worldwide campaign against Shell over its production of pesticides alleged to contaminate the environment.





## RESISTING TERRORISM

The first maxim in any conflict is never to permit the enemy to dictate the course of battle. The mortar attack on Downing Street yesterday was an attempt at precisely such dictation. It was not a random incident of vicarious terror, but an integral part of a campaign to pervert democracy by terrorising public opinion to achieve a political goal. The attack has been claimed by the Provisional IRA. It could as well have been by agents of President Saddam Hussein, who recently threatened just such an outrage.

A terrorist attack is not over when a mortar lands, a bomb goes off or a bullet strikes home. It is over only when those at whom it is directed decide how to react, with common sense and fortitude — or with terror. Only if they choose the latter can the attack be called a success. Many in the West reacted to Saddam's threats of terrorism by instantly capitulating. They have permitted him to alter their lives and social behaviour, generating a neurosis of doubt as to whether the war is worth fighting, whether beating a distant dictator merits the dislocation, the recession, the fear. Such doubt is the soil in which defeatism grows. It is the greatest single threat to victory.

Modern wars are fought on many fronts. They depend on an interaction of political forces in which the survival of individuals and states is rarely at issue and in which public opinion is a crucial component. For that reason, modern wars are rarely less than "total" in reach. Thus is defeat on the battlefield turned to victory in the mind of the public. Thus it has been from the first airline hijack in the Middle East to last week's Khafji incident.

Enemies of any state can turn to the exploitation of public fear. They seek to

undermine the sense of security which modern communities have come to expect as part of increased peace and prosperity. Once damaged, insecurity can feed on itself through the media and the over-reaction of politicians and policemen, virtually unaided by the terrorist. Killers can strike when and how they choose. Clearly the security services must review their response to every incident and remind the public to be ever more alert. But the ability of a mortar to penetrate Downing Street's airspace has never been in doubt.

Nobody can make any town, street or building totally secure. Short of declaring whole neighbourhoods "secure zones", as in Belfast, short of suspending the democratic life of a country and thus fulfilling the terrorist's fondest dream, such incidents are always a possibility. Those directed attacks deserve every sympathy. But the attacks themselves must be treated as a nuisance, a sideshow, not as a "threat to civilisation".

There will be more such attacks, whether from the IRA or from Saddam Hussein. They are the unavoidable response of an embattled and desperate enemy. They bring home to everybody the horror of war, the physical brutality of armed conflict to combatant and non-combatant alike. They remind us that fighting has not changed its impact on the human mind and body since earliest times. But the increased risk of terrorism to those living in and visiting London is statistically insignificant. There is no reason for anybody to feel a greater sense of personal danger. There is every reason for life and work to continue as normal. Any other response is pure gain to the IRA, and to all other perpetrators of terror.

## AFTER THE POLL TAX: 2

To a Conservative MP in a marginal seat, there is one obvious way of solving Michael Heseltine's poll tax conundrum. It is the solution now proposed by 70 MPs in an early day motion: transfer the cost of education wholesale to central government. Community charge bills would plummet, in some areas even vanishing altogether. For good measure, an extravagant and often politically charged area of local government would be eliminated.

Mr Heseltine should reject this route out of hand. In the first place, it is obvious that money will still have to be found to run the education service and that it would have to come from central taxation. The immediate effect would be to raise income tax by 4p in the pound or VAT by 5 per cent. There is no such thing as a free school system. Transfer would remove a huge item of tax revenue and limit the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre in any other tax reform.

A halfway house suggests transferring the teachers' payroll to the Treasury, making teachers, like social security officers and civil servants, direct employees of the state. The £8 billion bill would imply a 2p increase in income tax or 2.5 per cent on VAT. At the same time, the local flexibility in pay and employment that ministers are trying to encourage throughout the public sector would be sacrificed. Another huge group of workers would be parked each year on the Treasury's lawn, this time immovably so.

More serious and less often considered is the implication of such centralisation for education administration itself. The education ministry would need to spawn a huge new network of control, based on local authorities but with additional lines of reporting to Whitehall. The opted-out grant maintained schools are already imposing a burden on that government department. If the experience of hospitals and prisons is a guide, and it should be, Whitehall control will be more cumbersome and inefficient — and union dominated — than local democratic control.

Not since 1870 has central government taken responsibility for allocating money

direct to all state schools. In the drafting of the 1944 act, which laid the foundations for today's system, local administration was taken for granted. Indeed, the accountability of local schools and their teachers to their neighbourhoods, as represented by the churches or the local councils, was seen as a virtue, not just a convenience. To turn the clock back 120 years for the party political gain of a few pounds off community charge bills would be absurd. All over Europe, most notably in France, there is a move towards decentralisation in education. Central bureaucracies are seen as rigid, inefficient and stifling of initiative in the management of institutions. As education secretary Kenneth Clarke said of his own department last year: "I am apprehensive about their ability to deal with leaking roofs and blocked drains in 25,000 establishments, not to mention Darren's handwriting and Cheryl's spelling problems."

There is certainly a case for reviewing the role of education authorities now that "local management of schools" is removing many of their administrative functions. Education offices could be smaller, returning their large teams of "advisers" and specialists to schools and classrooms. The delegation of budgetary power to schools, a good Tory innovation, should make the school system more responsive to the community in a wider sense than through the mechanism of local government alone.

More to the point, the transfer of education from local to central government would run counter to the philosophy which should inform Mr Heseltine's present poll tax review. This is that, unless there is an overriding reason for central taxation and administration, local services should be paid for and supplied locally, and those who supply them should be directly accountable to local voters. Education is the biggest local service. Almost everywhere, schools are the most important truly local institutions. For the state to nationalise them would be a travesty of everything this government was elected to achieve.

## SQUARING SPEEDS

Increasing the speed of a vehicle from 70 to 80mph raises its kinetic energy by almost a third ( $k = mv^2$ ). It is kinetic energy which determines both stopping distance and the damage done in a crash. Not many drivers know this, which is why most seem happy to agree with the police that the legal speed limit for cars on a motorway should be raised by 10mph. Every day on every motorway, motorists can be seen voting (to adapt Lenin) with their kinetic energy. Only occasionally do they rue it.

Last year the Association of Chief Police Officers advised traffic police not to stop car drivers whose only offence was to drive at a speed between 70 and 80mph, and to let off with a verbal warning those doing between 80 and 85. Having stated their preference for a higher limit, chief constables have raised the limit themselves without reference to Parliament. Tempting though it may be to tidy this up by bringing law and police practice into line, if the legal limit were set at 80mph most drivers would then limit themselves to 90mph.

This is a curious collusion in law-breaking between private motorists and police. It has undoubtedly contributed to a more serious form of motorway anomaly, speeding by heavy goods vehicles. If car drivers are allowed to steal 10mph, lorry drivers no doubt tell themselves, why not HGVs? But lorry drivers probably know even less Newtonian mechanics than chief police officers. Compared with a car, the kinetic energy of a loaded juggernaut is enormous. One of the worst experiences of motorway driving is the intimidating spectacle of a lorry in the mirror, following too close and going too fast.

Enforcement of limits on lorries simply by following them, clocking the speed and pulling them into the side is dangerous, the police have found, as there is no really safe way of making such a lorry stop on a safe place for it to do so. Surveys of lorry speeds regularly reflect this sense of immunity. So the government announced yesterday that it has decided to require all new goods vehicles to be fitted with a mechanical speed limiter. The only fault in an otherwise timely decision is the speed limit chosen, 60mph. At that speed, a fully-loaded articulated truck is as formidable as a herd of elephants. In a collision with such monsters, mere cars do not stand a chance. A further 10mph reduction would reduce the energy of a lorry or coach by 30 per cent.

If one of the chief safety problems on motorways is the disparity in weight between cars and lorries, the same applies when the car is the heavier, as in collision with a human being. Safety again demands a reduction of the speed of the heavier body. The transport department is currently reviewing all speed limits. Its recommendations should include an assault on speeds in residential areas.

Where people and vehicles have to share circulation space, vehicle speeds need to be below the current 30mph limit. The bump-in-the-road, known as a sleeping policeman, would be an excellent enforcer of a 20mph limit. No residential side road should be without one, nor any village high street, however fast the ambitions of through traffic. No single measure would do more to make the lives of those who live in Britain's cities, towns and country villages more tolerable and safe.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Reassurance on treating Gulf injured

From Dr Howard Baderman

Sir, Having had more than 20 years' experience in managing hospital bed states and devising and implementing major incident procedures, I contend that the NHS will not be brought to its knees or into chaos within the first few days of receiving casualties from the Gulf, nor will NHS waiting lists automatically become grossly lengthened, nor shall we be faced with huge numbers of appalling injuries which are beyond our experience and expertise.

It is never easy to balance the needs of emergency admissions against those of waiting-list patients. Yet our hospitals do achieve this in the main and they cope, at the same time and sadly all too often in recent years, with major incidents which produce large numbers of casualties, without any warning. Many of these have multiple injuries and occupy beds for many weeks.

The longer lasting and more widespread problem that we often face is the steep rise in emergency admissions in winter, from influenza or other epidemics. Here too the hospitals cope, nor are waiting lists dramatically and permanently lengthened.

Many hospitals in all the country's 14 health regions will be used if necessary, taking reasonable numbers of casualties from the Gulf, spreading the load and controlling the rate of admission day by day, in a way never possible with a local major incident or a winter epidemic.

We have had almost two months to plan our response and organise our facilities. These are now well organised.

Every major hospital treats almost every day a whole range of injuries, including burns, and these are not intrinsically different from those we may receive from the Gulf. We will not have to treat injuries more severe than those that were so successfully managed after the Kegworth air crash or the King's Cross fire. Casualties from the Gulf will be previously fit young men and women and they will have received skilled treatment from the army medical services.

Chemical warfare injuries have caused understandable concern but we now have much more information on the comprehensive protection that our troops are already being given and on the nature of the injuries that may be sustained and the straightforward medical and nursing procedures that are required to treat such injuries.

All this is not to underestimate the possible amount or duration of the additional work that we may have to do. It is important to put the facts of managing this situation in perspective.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD BADERMAN  
(Consultant Accident and Emergency Department),  
University College Hospital,  
Gower Street, WC1,  
February 5.

### Tenure tasks for new archbishop

From Mr Douglas Brown

Sir, In your editorial, "Cuckoos in the nest" (February 2) you suggest that the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, might make a worthwhile start by announcing that the system of freehold tenure for Church of England clergy will be abolished.

An Archbishop of Canterbury has no authority to do anything of the sort. It is up to the General Synod. All Dr Carey can do is to encourage the synod in a direction that, as last week's debate showed, it is already set on taking.

Even so, Parliament will have the last word. Dr Carey, as you suggest, will have a chance to set out a reforming manifesto at his enthronement. Would not the chances of this coming to fruition be strengthened if parliamentary interference in so much of the business of the Church were ended, to say nothing of the state appointment of senior clergy?

Should not the first task of a reforming archbishop, then, be efforts towards unloosening the Church-State shackles?

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS BROWN,  
Green Cottage, The Hill,  
Polstead, St Colchester, Essex,  
February 2.

From the Reverend F. R. Dexter

Sir, There is no good reason why regular appraisal should be limited to those who hold high ecclesiastical office, as your leading article suggests. Properly used, appraisal should be part of the continuing formation of all clergy. However, the rather heavy-handed ideas which you propound suggest that appraisal is only concerned with removing difficult or ineffective clergy from office. If it is to win general support in the Church, appraisal must be seen and promoted in a far more positive way. I believe that most clergy would be happy to see the abolition of the parson's freehold, but not if it is associated with a threatening procedure which would be perceived as solely for dealing with the problem cases.

Linked to work consultancy, appraisal for all clergy must be part of a positive process of ministry development in which the gifts of a particular minister are developed, needs analysed, continuing education undertaken, and indeed failures acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,  
F. R. DEXTER,  
The Vicarage, St George's Close,  
Newcastle upon Tyne 2,  
February 4.

From the Reverend C. Fenton

Sir, The news that the Church of England clergy's "right to a job for life" is to be reviewed (your General Synod report, January 31) is as welcome as the reminder that one of the tasks the incoming Archbishop of Canterbury has set himself is the raising of professional standards of the clergy.

There are, however, implications in both aspirations that need to be clearly understood. I understand by the term "professional", for instance, a person who has qualified to do the work he is engaged in; he or she is properly paid to do that work and, where necessary, properly supported and supervised in it.

Finally, there is a clear job description and contract which enables the clergyman or woman to do their job, to have some idea as to how they are performing, and to know when they have done it.

With such safeguard there would, of course, be no need for the parson's freehold. Without it, the dismantling of what (I think) many clergy regard as a minimum if rather unpalatable safeguard to their and their family's livelihood would be disastrous.

Yours truly,  
CHRISTOPHER FENTON  
(Director),  
The Saint Anne's Centre,  
Under Down, Ledbury,  
Herefordshire.

From Mr Richard S. Rowntree

Sir, Your tribute to Dr Runcie on his retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury (leading article, January 31) must have been appreciated by many of your readers. As one such, I was especially grateful for your recognition of the moral courage he exercised in the direction of his leadership and of the toll that this must have demanded of him.

Although maintaining the unity of the Anglican communion must rightly have been a major priority for him, those of us who do not belong to that communion can recognise his prime concern as Archbishop of Canterbury as having been the health of Christianity as a whole. It is in this respect that your assessment of Dr Runcie as embodying "the agony of honest doubt, honestly declared" is so pertinent.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,  
Kingshorpe House,  
Pickering,  
North Yorkshire,  
February 1.

From Mr Alan Montagu

Sir, No reputations have emerged enhanced from the legal quagmire surrounding local authorities' powers to undertake interest-rate swaps, least of all those of the government (for their insistence on protecting the outcome by refusing to acknowledge the inadequacies of existing statute to address an existing uncertainty) and the judiciary (under the apparent illusion that all swaps are driven by a blind gambling instinct).

The need for legislative amendment nevertheless remains acute and should be taken as an opportunity to disentangle the residual mess. An elegant solution would be to empower local authorities to honour past contracts entered into in good faith, without incurring any legal obligation for them to do so, at the same time statutorily protecting councils and their officers from further legal proceedings.

Many local authorities would welcome such an ability, while the banks involved should be content with the prospect of some recovery from authorities wishing to preserve their reputations in the City as honourable counter-parties. The secretary of state could limit the amount recoverable by any local authority from an increase in the community charge to a maximum amount per capita. No party would thus be seen to have been bailed out.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN MONTAGU,  
30 Cavendish Gardens,  
Trowville Road, SW4,  
January 30.

From Mr R. V. Taylor

Sir, While applauding Philip Howard's defence of the exonym ("Say Naples and defy", February 1), one exception springs to mind. Now that we are taught to pronounce Kabul with the stress on the first syllable, I am delighted to find that Kipling's "Ford o' Kabul River" does scan after all.

Yours sincerely,  
R. V. TAYLOR,  
14 Waxes Close,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire,  
February 1.

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Ms Vivien Stern ("Keep life sentences only for the few", February 4) was incorrect in saying Lord Parker of Waddington's committee-stage amendment on the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Bill in 1965 to give judges unfettered discretion in sentencing those convicted of murder was supported "by all the law lords".

It was passed by only 80 votes to 78. Eleven of the peers who held high judicial office — some of them had never served as judges of the Queen's Bench Division — voted in favour. There was one exception: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, a life-long and deeply committed abolitionist. His opposition to a discretionary life sentence for murder reflected the Labour government policy, which favoured a com-

promise of investing the court with the power to recommend a minimum period of time which the convicted murderer should serve in custody.

That provision, which was introduced into the legislation by an amendment to the 1965 Bill and accepted by Lord Parker, has been little used by trial judges. In any event the minimum-recommendation provision was effectively superseded by the introduction of the parole system in the Criminal Justice Act 1967.

Ms Stern goes on to state that Lord Lane's support for a discretionary sentence of life imprisonment for murder is shared by "12 out of 19 judges". It would be preferable to canvass the opinions of some three score or more of the High Court judges who sit in the Queen's Bench Division, regularly trying homicide cases. It is my guess that a majority of them would support the change in the law.

Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,  
2 Rippelville Grove, NI.

### Americans abroad

From Mr Bedford Pace

Sir, Bernard Levin ("If it's the Gulf it must be Mexico", February 4) has missed an important reason for the current dearth of US visitors to London.

Unlike the British, who have to travel abroad for many of their holidays, particularly if they are looking for sun and sand or snow-covered mountains, Americans don't. Within his own country, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, the US holidaymaker can sample some of the best leisure holiday spots in the world. For purely leisure-type holidays he really doesn't have to travel further afield. Why spend twice as much money to travel abroad to do something you can do at home?

If the British holidaymaker had such options within his own country, he too would not be travelling abroad for his holiday and would therefore be just as ignorant of

international travel protocol (and geography) as Mr Levin accuses his US counterpart of being.

Okay, some Americans may have difficulty locating certain European or Asian capitals on a map, but then how many Brits does Mr Levin think could name the states that border the US state of Nebraska, for example?

Yours faithfully,  
BEDFORD PACE,  
One Mercer Avenue,  
Hartsdale, New York 10530, USA,  
February 4.

From Mrs Marilyn Branstom

Sir, Britain has no need of enemies with bombs to keep American tourists away, so long as she has friends like Bernard Levin who can do the same job so effectively with a typewriter.

Yours sincerely,  
MARILYN BRANSTON,  
50 Holdenhurst Avenue,  
Finchley, N12,  
February 5.

### Condemned to decay

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir, You are unquestionably right, that the response to the English Heritage survey of listed historic buildings at risk ("Condemned to decay", leading article, January 30) must be a shift in government policy. But by implication at least, your prescription seems to reside primarily in the Department of the Environment and to depend on a redirection of grant to particular types of building already on the critical list.

Again that is unarguable; but simply to exclude cathedrals and stately homes from the grant regime and give owners "a kick in the pants" seems unlikely to achieve very much. The kick would be better directed towards the Treasury, not with the intention of pleading for more grant, although that would

hardly be unimportant, but to seek a system of tax-based incentives that make the ownership and maintenance of a listed building affordable and pleasurable, rather than the burden it is now.

This means thinking about tax relief in both corporate and personal terms and linking the two, as happens in the United States. And if the property market's "love affair with antiquity" is to lead to marriage, one might do worse than make the interest on all loans for repair and maintenance tax deductible, and zero-rate all such work for purpose of VAT.

Only when people actually want to own a listed building will we ever really reduce the decay.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN BRADSHAW, Director,  
Civic Trust,  
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,  
February 6.

### Education cuts

From the General Secretary of Nuffield

Sir, Your report (January 30) of the pressures for cost cutting in polytechnics and other higher education colleges illustrates succinctly the threat to quality education posed by government funding policies.

As the proportion of students not centrally-funded ("fee-only" students) continues to rise, so the amount of money available for each enrolled student continues to decline. Funding per PCFC (Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council) student for the current academic year was £3,788 (much less than for every university student). Spread the funding across actual students enrolled and the figure drops to £3,405 (a gap of £383 as opposed to £289 last year).

The trend towards more fee-only students is set to continue. In that case the unit of resource will be increasingly depressed. What the government describes as "efficiency gains" will rapidly turn into "quality losses" unless adequate funds are made available.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFF WOOLF,  
General Secretary,  
National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education,  
27 Britannia Street, WC1,  
February 1.

### Books blight

From Miss Glenis Johnson

Sir, I find it highly indicative of the new national curriculum planning techniques to find that some of the books listed as being required for level three reading tests in two to three months time are out of print. Not even the Department of Education knows how many.

The planners obviously do not take all their paperwork home as we teachers are doing, to check and double check.

Yours etc,  
GLENIS JOHNSON,  
61 North Albert Street,  
Fleetwood, Lancashire,  
February 7.

### Curriculum choice

From Mrs Alison Willcocks

Sir, The comments of Mr Stratford (February 4) lamenting the secretary of state's defilement over the matter of curriculum breadth must have struck chords of agreement in many schools. Not those perhaps which assume that "choice" is all, but certainly those such as mine which have been striving in recent months to devise curricula of breadth and balance in line with the original philosophy of the national curriculum.

History or geography? Art or design? These subjects are neither equivalent nor are they acceptable alternatives to each other. Far from being national, the principle of breadth now appears to have become purely national.

Yours faithfully,  
ALISON WILCOCKS  
(Deputy Head),  
Bedales School,  
Petersfield, Hampshire,  
February 5.

### Life sentences

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Ms Vivien Stern ("Keep life sentences only for the few", February 4) was incorrect in saying Lord Parker of Waddington's committee-stage amendment on the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Bill in 1965 to give judges unfettered discretion in sentencing those convicted of murder was supported "by all the law lords".

It was passed by only 80 votes to 78. Eleven of the peers who held high judicial office — some of them had never served as judges of the Queen's Bench Division — voted in favour. There was one exception: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner, a life-long and deeply committed abolitionist. His opposition to a discretionary life sentence for murder reflected the Labour government policy, which favoured a com-

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

The widest perception attainable by mortal beings is that of God as constructing both the ultimate reality and the final mystery. Thus fundamentalism (in the popular understanding of the word) is the greatest disaster in that it leads to people assuming, sometimes in misguided good faith, a role that can never be theirs.

Dr Runcie has demonstrated that valid faith needs to contain an element of positive doubt and perhaps for this reason future historians may recognise him as an outstanding Christian leader at a time when fundamentalist religious assumptions were a major factor in the disease of the world.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD S. ROWNTREE,  
Kingshorpe House,  
Pickering,  
North Yorkshire,  
February 1.

From Mr Alan Montagu

Sir, No reputations have emerged enhanced from the legal quagmire surrounding local authorities' powers to undertake interest-rate swaps, least of all those of the government (for their insistence on protecting the outcome by refusing to acknowledge the inadequacies of existing statute to address an existing uncertainty) and the judiciary (under the apparent illusion that all swaps are driven by a blind gambling instinct).

The need for legislative amendment nevertheless remains acute and should be taken as an opportunity to disentangle the residual mess. An elegant solution would be to empower local authorities to honour past contracts entered into in good faith, without incurring any legal obligation for them to do so, at the same time statutorily protecting councils and their officers from further legal proceedings.

Many local authorities would welcome such an ability, while the banks involved should be content with the prospect of some recovery from authorities wishing to preserve their reputations in the City as honourable counter-parties. The secretary of state could limit the amount recoverable by any local authority from an increase in the community charge to a maximum amount per capita. No party would thus be seen to have been bailed out.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN MONTAGU,  
30 Cavendish Gardens,  
Trowville Road, SW4,  
January 30.

### Tea-time carnage

From Mr Arnold Thomson

Sir, Your delightful picture of a barn owl (January 24, later editions) appeared just one day after a large tawny owl dropped in, via the chimney, on our drawing-room at tea time.

I have yet to see a bull in a china shop, but its effect must be minimal beside that of an owl in a drawing-room. Ornaments, pictures and pastries were scattered, while between stories it slumbered in a corner. Reference to our bird book showed its favourite snack to be a live mouse, so luring it out of the french window with a titbit was not on. However, in shattering a jardiniere, it k.o.'d itself and we were able to carry it out.

Curiously, my wife's tears when it recovered and flew off into the twilight were not for the devastation behind her, but of joy for the deliverance of the owl.

And yet, if I drop the smallest speck of pipe ash on the carpet ... Yours faithfully,  
ARNOLD THOMSON,  
Nightingales, Hill Way,  
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,  
January 24.

### Warm announcement

From Mrs Anne J. Jackson

Sir, It was nice to be able to arrive at work this morning with a smile on one's face thanks to the announcer at Waterloo East, who said "Services are subject to delay this morning due to all this white fluffy stuff falling out of the sky".

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE JACKSON,  
9 Penn Gardens, Chislehurst, Kent,  
February 7.





## BRIGADIER SHEILA HEANEY



In 1977 she was appointed to the executive committee of St Columba's Hospice, a position she held until 1987. She was chairman of the planning committee which was responsible for the building of seminar rooms and the Birsey Hall study centre. Her work for the hospice extended far beyond her executive committee duties. She was always available to drive or to go shopping and acted as a relief volunteer to the co-ordinator. It was indeed fitting that at the end she herself experienced the peace and support of the Hospice where she died.

Yet like so many of her contemporaries, both men and women, she pursued a military career almost by accident. The daughter of a consultant surgeon in Liverpool, she went to Huxton College then Liverpool University, graduating in the year of the Munich crisis.

In 1939 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) and became one of the

first two subalterns in Liverpool, charged with the task of persuading other young women in the city to volunteer. She later went abroad where she spent the latter part of the war and the first two years of peace, first in East Africa and then in Egypt with Middle East Land Forces. It is said that this experience overseas finally helped her to make up her mind over the decision which faced so many ATS officers at

## A black and white portrait of a man in a military cap and glasses. The man is wearing a dark military cap with a crest on the front. He has dark-rimmed glasses and is looking slightly to the left. The image is high-contrast, with deep shadows and bright highlights. The background is dark and textured.

DEAN Jagger was one of Hollywood's major character actors of the 1940s. He won an Oscar as best supporting actor in the 1949 film *Twelve O'Clock High*, a second world war drama. Both the film and its lead actor, Gregory Peck, were nominated for Academy Awards as well, but Jagger was the film's only winner. He also won an Emmy (television equivalent of the Oscar) in 1979 for his performance in the religious television programme, *This Is The Life*. Jagger demonstrated a keen conscience about all his work throughout his life and often reconcurred with writers and directors about the lack of integrity in many of his roles.

notices," he later recalled wryly, "had a reverse effect on the industry, which was suddenly revolutionised by sound pictures. With the one film to my credit I was considered part of that group of untouchables - silent film stars."

as he did in *Brigham Young—Frontiersman* (1940), his last, with Etta, that portraying the Mormon leader had become one of her husband's favorite roles. He was the part against fierce competition after starring in the Broadway play *Missouri Legend*, which firmly established him as an actor of considerable ability. One of his best known roles was as the general in *White Christmas* (1954) which starred Bing Crosby, who sang the Irving Berlin title classic. He also costarred with Spencer Tracy in the classic thriller *Bad Day at Black Rock* (1955).

Jagger was instantly recognizable for his kindly features and demeanor which effectively barred him from serious candidature as a romantic male lead. He did not mind and often joked about playing roles as "everybody's father", including the father of Audrey Hepburn in *The Nun's Story* and of Elvis Presley in *King Creole*. Among Jagger's other films were *Wings in the Dark*, *13 Hours By Air*, *A Yank in London*, *Rawhide*, *The Robe*, *Elmer Gantry* and *The Kremlin Letter*.

He is survived by his wife, Etta, a daughter and two stepsons. Two earlier marriages ended in divorce.

where he hatched the concept of an inexpensive dinghy class initially named Sea Swallow with the Cowes-based designer Uffa Fox. The design was launched after the war as the Firefly and adopted as the singlehanded class at the 1948 Olympics.

sailing. Indeed, his ability to assess weather and topography simultaneously and conclude the correct tactic proved to be one of his strongest attributes both on the racing course and in the air. In 1944, Morris was appointed OBE for his contribution towards developing a successful air defence system for the carrier HMS *Formidable* in which he was serving at the time. After the war the protection system was adopted as a standard for all British aircraft carriers.



National Gallery and the Tate Gallery. With his understanding of the truth of *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes* and his profound familiarity with the history of changes in taste, he at once realised the immense dangers of such a policy.

**YOUR** obituary (January 29) does justice to many sides of Denys Sutton's quite exceptional career as a connoisseur, writer on art and exhibition organiser. However, I would like to add one aspect which was not touched upon, his powerful and eloquent interventions on occasions when he felt that political moves endangered what he held dear.

To take but one example, to my knowledge he played an invaluable part in the successful endeavour in 1953-54 to change the government's mind over the facilitation by statute of sales of their holdings by the trustees of the

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron of the National Federation of Housing Associations will open the Hundred House Society Lilley Close Development, Water Street, Chesterton, Cambridge, at 9.35; and, as Chancellor of Cambridge University, will visit Hills Road Sixth Form College at 10.20; and, as a trustee of the university's Kurt Hahn Trust, will attend a luncheon at the college.

**The Princess Royal**, as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit Wyllie Mount, Weymouth, Dorset, at 10.15; Furness Roker, Wiltshire, at 10.00 and will open the new Access Computer Centre at Swindon College at 12.10 for students with disabilities.

**Mr G. Baker**  
and **Mrs C. Becker**  
The marriage took place on  
Grand Cayman, West Indies, on  
February 7, 1991, between  
Gregg Baker and Caroline  
Becker.

**Mr R.C.P. Wood**  
and **Miss H.B. Mirrah**  
The marriage took place in  
Antigua, on January 10, of  
Mr Richard Charles Priestley  
Wood, son of Mr and Mrs  
Ernest Wood, of Sheriff Hutton,  
Yorkshire, and Miss Helene  
Mirrah, daughter of Mrs Helene  
Boag and the late Mr Fenimore  
Cooper Marsh II, of New York.

**Mr J.E. Buck**  
and **Miss S.P. Mallock**  
The engagement is announced between Sub-Lieutenant James Buck, RN, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Buck, of Stramshall, Staffordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.C. Mallock, of Greattham, Hampshire.

**Mr C.S. Coombe-Tennant**  
and **Miss S.N. Storr**  
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Coombe-Tennant, of Chidlingfold, Surrey, and Suzanne, daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Storr, of Kidlington, Oxford.

**Mr G.B. Cross**  
and **Mrs H.J. Adams**  
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place shortly between Giles Cross, of Halfpenny House, Fowthorpe, Herefordshire, and Veronica Adams, of Mill House, Much Wenlock, Herefordshire.

**BIRTHS:** Robert Burton, scholar, 1576; Samuel Butler, author of *Hudibras*, baptized, 1598; William Worcester, 1612; Daniel Defoe, 1660; J.M.W. Turner, painter, 1775; Louis Blanc, revolutionary socialist, 1805; Pige-Théniers, 1805; John Ruskin, writer, artist and social reformer, London, 1819; Charles Darwin, geologist, 1809; James Clark Maxwell, physicist, Leicester, 1831; Jules Verne, novelist, Nantes, 1828; Martin Buber, philosopher, Vienna, 1878; Dame Edith Evans, actress, London, 1888; George Bernard Shaw, dramatist, Dublin, 1896.

**DEATHS:** Mary Queen of Scots, executed, Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire, 1587; Peter the Great, tsar of Russia, 1725; M.L.B. St Petersburg, 1725; M.G. Ballara, 1725; Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Dmitrov, Russia, 1921; William Bateson, biologist and geneticist, Merton, 1927.

Rioting and looting followed a peaceful demonstration of the unemployed in London, 1886.

Among those present were: Mr. Marcus Fox, MP, Sir Francis Lifford, QC, Mr. R. B. Shiller, Mr. Frank Grosvenor, Mr. C. G. Emswiler and Mr. David Robinson.

Colonel Sir David Stirling  
The Prince of Wales was represented by Lord Tolemache at a memorial service for Colonel Sir David Stirling held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The Duke of Kent was represented by Brigadier Michael Scott and Princess Alexandra by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy.

The Rev J.A. Barrie officiated, assisted Father Walter Maxwell-Stuart, OSB, and the Very Rev J. Fraser MacLuskey.

Archie Stirling of Keir and Mr Peter Stirling, brother, read the Lessons. Sir Fitzroy Maclean of Donmongan gave an address.

Royal Society for Asian Affairs Lord Denman, President of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel and presented the Sir Percy Sykes Memorial medal to Sir Denis Wright, The Malaysian High Commissioner, Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP, and Sir Michael Wilford also spoke.

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Church Army, the evangelistic wing of the Church of England, is to cut its staff by 10 per cent, weeks after the launch of the decade of evangelism.

The 40 officers and non-uniformed staff of the Church Army, whose most famous officer is Terry Waite, the kidnapped envoy, were told this week that their work will cease in the next three months. If alternative jobs cannot be found, they will join the unemployment register.

Numbers in training could also be cut by more than a third and the army's £30,000 grant to a sister society in eastern Africa may be

"This has happened at a critical time in the life of the Church Army. Here we are, at the coldest time of the year, when many families and vulnerable people will turn to us for help. We would like to be doing more for homeless people.

"We were looking to move forward into all these exciting prospects of the decade of evangelism. Instead, we are having to draw back. We are also cutting back on administration and advertising at a time when we need to raise more money."

been used to keep the army going are exhausted. Officers are reluctant to capitalise on assets. Captain Kinney said: "If we continued as we were, in two years' time we would have to close two old peoples' homes with 40 residents in total."

Income last year was a record £2.4 million, with £1.3 million from legacies and £1.1 million divided equally between church donations, individuals and industry. The Church Army has been hit by the recession in the construction industry, which has resulted in the loss of two major industrial donations.

Captain Kinney said:

[illegible]

**L**ord Cameron, 91; Professor  
Averil Cameron, President, Insti-  
tutorian, 51; Mr. Osman Ellis  
Barpass, 63; Lieutenant-Colonel  
Sir Martin Gilliat, Colonel  
of the Queen's Own Buffs, The  
Royal Wiltshire Infantry, 78; Mar-  
shal of the RAF, 78; Major  
John Grandy, 78; Mr.  
Harman Grisewood, former  
chief assistant to the director,  
Central Board of Film Censors,  
London, 89; £5 Admiral of the  
Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, 76;  
Lady (Geoffrey) Howe, former  
deputy chairman, Equal  
Opportunities Commission, 59;  
Lord Jakobovits, Chief Rabbi

Mr Senger Berry to be Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, from April 9.

Mr Trevor Clay, Mr David Garfield Davies, Miss Branda Dean, Mr Alexander Ferry and Mr John Denton Pollock to be employee members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, with immediate effect.

Mrs Catherine Porteous to be a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

**Professor Lord McColl** of Dulwich was elected President of the Society for Minimally Invasive General Surgery at its inaugural meeting held at the Royal Society of Medicine. Mr R. D. Rosin was elected honorary secretary and Mr M. McMahon honorary treasurer.

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## St George's School Harpenden

The Chapel Centenary is being celebrated on May 18-19. Former pupils and staff who have not received invitations and details should contact the Headmaster's Secretary, telephone:

The Chapel Centenary is being celebrated on May 18-19. Former pupils and staff who have not received invitations and details should contact the Headmaster's Secretary, telephone: 7682 765177.

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# Pretty reactionary, very plausible

**L**ittle did the Tory party apparatchiks realise in 1968, as they watched a four-year-old angelic Andrew Tinney eat his Ambrosia creamed rice in a television commercial, that he would grow up to be one of the more authoritarian leaders the Young Conservatives have spawned.

Mr Tinney, now 26, is scarier than his predecessors on the right. They were just reactionary. He is reactionary, pretty and plausible. He never has been one of those drunken boy Tories who rioted at conferences and wanted to legalise drugs and support South Africa during apartheid. Under the Tinney Team — their campaigning name — the Young Conservatives are growing up.

As their national chairman for the past two years, Mr Tinney has appeared charming, but hints at wickedness lurking just below the surface as he talks of his career as a child actor. "When I see film of a little boy holding a football, a tuft of hair sticking up, I think, 'But that was me. I can't have been that sweet'."

He wasn't. Even then, unspeakable things were probably going on in that infant mind. Now he is letting them issue from his lips. He wants to bring back the death penalty. "Lethal injection, or whatever is the most humane method, it doesn't matter." He is keen to privatise all schools. He wants to commercialise the BBC. He misses Mrs Thatcher. He twists his face at the name Major. "I like to think my views are fairly representative of the YC membership," he says, disturbingly.

Here, then, is the future of Conservatism. Soon, the seeds of these youthful ideas may be propagating in the main party. One must not forget that John Major began his brilliant career setting up the Brixton YCs. Who knows what glory awaits Mr Tinney? The first step will be at the YC annual conference, attended by the prime minister in Scarborough this weekend (weather permitting), which will debate revoking the BBC's royal charter. "The motion on the BBC was quite nicely worded," says Mr Tinney, making a strange laughing noise. "It is to allow the BBC to 'benefit from the competition in the marketplace'. Heh, heh, heh."

He is involved in the Conservative Way Forward, a party pressure group set up last month to keep the "vision and ideals" of Thatcherism from waning during the Major years. This is not surprising, since he is a typical product of the Eighties, owning a

**Andrew Tinney, child actor and leader of the Young Conservatives, will pass on his ideas for the future at their conference this weekend. Kate Muir checks his credentials**

flat in Woking, Surrey, commuting to his job as an accountant in the City, and placing his cellphone by the olives at lunch. Better still, his chosen restaurant is called, he claims, Rule Britannia. Though on inspection it turns out to be half French, and spelt "Roud".

The Tinney way forward is quite different from the traditional rough-and-tumble of the youthful right, those in the now disbanded and disgraced Federation of Conservative Students. These libertarians would battle at intervals with the Heathite wets who controlled the YCs until the late Eighties. Until Mr Tinney and his team took over, and nothing was quite the same again.

Determined to be a fair description of his management technique. He won the chairmanship from the left in 1988, by 192 votes to 190, amid allegations that someone had electronically bugged the wets' meetings, arranged for their phones to be cut off, and sent them unsolicited sex manuals. He denies any involvement in the "dirty tricks" campaign. His promotion was slick, even then, with glamorous posters of himself with a Trimphone at his ear, accompanied by somewhat less glamorous cheerleaders waving pompons and wearing Tinney Team T-shirts.

"We have now permanently overturned the Heathite rump. At first I just had a narrow margin, and had to work with four vice-chairmen who were against me. Now they have been replaced by supporters, and I had a two-thirds majority last year. This March I don't think anyone will stand against the new chairman we have nominated. I'd say there's been a shift in thinking." Note the Thatcher pattern emerging here — first get in position, then sack half your cabinet, dry the rest out, bring in some yes-men. Mr Tinney is learning fast.

Not that he is sure he wants to be an MP. "Being a backbencher with no influence doesn't appeal very much." No. We might have

guessed that. "And MPs are paid rather badly." Perhaps he is just being modest. Surely anyone who has taken a year off accountancy training to concentrate on leading the YCs must have some aspirations? He certainly plans to bring their image in line with his own carefully crafted one.

"The YCs, and eventually the party itself, will change. There will be less Oxbridge and old school tie, and more people like me, from comprehensive schools and polytechnics and redbrick universities." The Tory MP Julian Critchley once described what followed the grocer's daughter's arrival at Number 10 as the peasants' revolt. "He's the sort of person who thinks you don't deserve to be an MP unless you have four buttons on your jacket sleeve, and that's going to change now," says Mr Tinney, shivering at the mention of old-style paternalist Conservatism. Young rightwingers have abandoned the tradition of waving towels at conferences, indicating that a wet speaker should dry

out. Now, everyone is in agreement. There is no alternative under the Tinney regime.

"Young people want excitement, sure, but in essence they aspire to owning their own homes, having a car, a job and a stable family life. We had this image of being stuffy, a sort of marriage bureau more like the Young Farmers than a political party, and in the Fifties and Sixties when people didn't have cars and money, it was more a social club." Back then membership was around 100,000. Now, he estimates it is 10,000, "mostly activists". The remaining opposing wets put it closer to 5,000. Central Office will not confirm or deny this, and sounds rather embarrassed about the whole thing.

Mr Tinney's political heroes are, as expected, Norman Tebbit and Margaret Thatcher. "Under her, it was extraordinarily difficult for people like myself to find anything with which we could disagree. We are now trying to find

our feet in the new era. There are definite differences, particularly on Europe and economic policy."

The YC elite are not afraid to speak out about those differences, and have been practising their debating skills at Mr Tinney's newly-created leadership school, a weekend's training in presentation skills, research, television appearances and marketing. "We video them making speeches, and criticise the result. I chair a fake public meeting with candidates, and do a version of *Killjoy*, which is more *Killjoy* really, where I run round the room and insult them. When our people come to perform as MPs, they will perform twice as well as those in the past."

The techniques are coldly professional. There is little chance of these budding politicians indulging in fun or free time or normal youthful activities like sex. Mr Tinney says his chairmanship work can take up to 40 hours a week on top of his full-time job, so he has to be Thatcherite in his bedtime habits, too. "I don't need much sleep — I had four-and-a-half hours last night."

Shame, really, because Mr Tinney is quite fun to be with if you like right-wing zealots. In fact, he describes himself, mysteriously, as a liberal Conservative. He has a rather black, Tebbitish sense of humour, which clashes with his innocent boy-Next-door looks. "Tebbit was such an inspiration," he says, lighting yet another cigarette and nibbling a nail. "I admire him because of where he came from, his roots. And he was so aware of the media — he was a real performer."

**M**r Tinney is something of a performer himself, appearing to care more about presentation than policies. As a baby of the media age, he understands that the public are there not to be convinced but to be sold to. As the era of the men-in-grey-suits with even greyer policies dawns, he will bring right wing, well-marketed relief. He seems to have vanquished the boorish tendency in the YCs, and it will be pleasant to see conferences without the usual boys lacking chins, but making up for it in acne. And so telegenic is he, with that Ambrosia angel face, that viewers can only look forward to his eventual appearance in the House. Still, there is a whiff of sulphur surrounding this open handsome front. There is something unsettling, and in the end it is hard to resist a quick check under the restaurant table for the presence of a forked tail.



Out of the shadows: after leading the Young Conservatives, is Andrew Tinney ready to move up?

Uncertainty about air travel safety is proving a bonanza for private plane hire

## Leaving on your own jet plane

**A** large finance company rented a private aircraft yesterday to fly nine of its executives to the United States after their Concorde flight was cancelled. The cost: £40,000. This was an example of how the drop in the numbers of airline passengers because of fears of terrorist attacks is turning into a boon for charter companies.

A widespread ban on scheduled air travel by firms worried about the safety of their employees, and the growing number of cancelled flights, has encouraged business travellers to consider hiring private aircraft.

Alan Marler, the marketing director of Air London International, Europe's largest and longest established air charter brokerage, says that bookings since the beginning of the Gulf war are up by 40 per cent on the same period last year. Passengers include merchant bankers, design teams and computer executives.

At £900 an hour for a propeller-driven King Air aircraft, it is cheaper for eight people to travel from London to Paris and back by private executive plane (£225 each) than to go business class on a scheduled airline (£290 return with British Airways). Usually, however, there are only two or three passengers on a charter flight, which increases the cost per person.

"Even Concorde is cheaper than taking a private jet," according to Jeremy Palmer, a partner with the London air charter brokers Hunt and Palmer. Although private planes are still a luxury — particularly when companies insist that no more than two top executives travel in the same plane — the cost is often justified on the grounds of flexibility, security and reduced time away from the office.

Executive planes are usually hired out at an hourly rate based on flying time, with a

two-hour minimum each day. Rates vary, from about £1,000 an hour for a six-seater Cessna Citation, to £7,000 for the 30-seat DC8 73 which once belonged to the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. Swiss-based aircraft are much in demand at the moment for "diplomatic reasons".

Mr Palmer is sceptical about claims that there have recently been exorbitant price increases in the air chartering business. "We are certainly getting more enquiries as a result of the Gulf war but a lot of people don't want to spend the money," he says. "I tell the people who ring us because they are worried about terrorists that they are better off going on a scheduled service if there is one available. If anything, the security is tighter."

**H**e also believes that insurance companies that try to increase war risk premiums are "trying it on", a view shared by Douglas White, the managing director of Magec, Britain's largest air charter operator, with eight BAe 125 aircraft at its disposal.

A week before the war started, Captain White talked a client out of paying an extra £18,000 in war risk insurance for a three-day trip to northern Cyprus and western Turkey.

Stephen Merrett, a Lloyd's underwriter specialising in war risk insurance, says that big airlines are being charged only a minimal extra amount for war insurance. "War risk insurance accounts for about 20 per cent of the total insurance," he says. However, he expects the increased cost of security at airports to be passed on to the passengers. In the past two weeks, Captain White has received three requests from multinational companies for quotations for the exclusive use of an aircraft for six months. He expects at least one of them to accept his price of £456,000.

Magec's prices include a crew of three and food and drink. Moët et Chandon champagne is provided at no extra cost, but there is a supplement for Dom Perignon. (Mr Khashoggi's former DC8 includes everything, even Beluga caviar.)

This week Magec flew three oil company executives on a five-day trip to Gabon for £49,000. "But a large number

of the top 100 companies in the United Kingdom are either putting a total ban on their staff travelling or using the expression, 'Anyone travelling outside the UK does so as a volunteer'." Captain White says. "People are delaying their trips, but eventually they will have to go — regardless of the cost."

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THE TIMES

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## Over, and over there

BROADWAY, like the West End, is suffering from the Gulf war: long-running British musicals may soon be all that is left on the Great White Way. Seven productions closed in January alone, and several others are currently operating at a loss. Chief among the casualties was the James Clavell musical *Shogun*, which closed without beginning to recoup its \$6.9 (£3.5) million budget.

### Royal audience

WHEN Sidi Siddiki sings at the Jazz Café's "ANC Night" tomorrow, he may scan his audience with special keenness. The Moroccan singer has received a letter from a private secretary to the Prince of Wales, expressing the Prince's pleasure at hearing Siddiki's music in London recently. Those years patrolling the Commonwealth have clearly given the Prince a taste for world music's wider flowers.

### Golden boy

THE Royal Ballet School is celebrating success in this year's Prix de Lausanne, an international competition for young dancers which attracts entrants from all over the world. No fewer than five of the 15 finalists came from the school, including Christopher Wheeldon, who won the gold medal. The others all returned with awards. Four of the five British finalists were boys, a reversal of the norm of female numerical superiority in the world of dance.

### Last chance

THE Robert Cray Band adds two shows to the end of its British tour, at the Town and Country in north London (071-284 0303) on Tuesday and Wednesday. Having updated the art of blues guitar playing, Cray is now attempting to reinvent himself as a Southern soul singer. Where once his guitar did all the talking, he is now making fuller use of his voice and bringing the brassy sound of the Memphis Horns more firmly into play.

## GALLERIES: LONDON

# Whitechapel sunshine and shadow

A joint Michael Andrews and Albert Pinkham Ryder show and the British debut of the abstract American painter Bill Jensen, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

Two occasions are not much to build a theory of habit upon. But it may mean something that, for the second time in three exhibition slots, the Whitechapel Art Gallery is featuring what appears to be an unlikely combination of present and past: a group of recent Australian landscapes by Michael Andrews and a loan show of 26 paintings by Albert Pinkham Ryder.

Presumably one is supposed to attract visitors to the other. Since Ryder is virtually unknown in Britain, the bait must be Michael Andrews. Whether admirers of Andrews' large, fine-spun and under-

standingly popular paintings of Ayers Rock, and other places where the kangaroos hop free, will also respond positively to Ryder's mostly small, moss-grown symbolic landscapes is another matter. With the McKeevey/Nolde combination a kind of internal logic was visible. Here the mixture looks self-destructive.

However, each show will fascinate its own audience, though it is not clear what the audience for Andrews may be. At the beginning of his career he was often labelled "Pop Art" because of his subject-matter. He never painted in a Pop Art way, but his fascination with lounge clubs and smart parties and the occasional incorporation of silk screen and template in his work were enough to pigeon-hole him. Since the early Sixties, however, he has become increasingly traditional in his ideas and technique. First the English seaside and country-

side came to feature prominently, evolved in misty spray-gun techniques, and pop stars were replaced by tweedy sportsmen stalking the hills.

Though he spoke persuasively about the symbolic values of his subjects (a lot to do with ego and conformism), little of this was apparent in the works, which seemed designed increasingly to go down well with those who look forward to the Royal Academy summer show.

The Ayers Rock series, which he began in 1984, offered another obvious comparison. These are clearly Australian paintings, suggesting in technique and subject that he has learnt much from older local painters like Fred Williams. The pictures are

Ryder lived long enough to be embraced, rather to his surprise, by the American avant-gardists



Could arouse dislike, but difficult to shrug off: "Pastoral Study", by Albert Pinkham Ryder, at the Whitechapel

clearly perceived as not a nobody. If there were any doubt about that, Bill Jensen is here to set the record straight. The 45-year-old painter from Minneapolis is having his first one-man show in London, at the Grob Gallery. Even in America he is not well known; he is a painter's painter, much admired by his peers and well represented in public collections all over the United States. For a New York-based painter he is unusually shy and scholarly, a slow worker who may well over one canvas for seven years.

He is also unusually conscious of where he fits into a certain American tradition: that of artists such as Marsden Hartley and Arthur Dove, and before them Albert Pinkham Ryder. They all teetered on the brink of abstraction, and when they toppled over into it, always cultivated the

sort of organic abstraction which is hardly distinguishable (and should hardly be distinguished) from depiction of external reality seen through unfocused eyes. To the Romantic sensibility Jensen may sound suspiciously intellectual. But he has a rare ability to theorise about the finished paintings, suggest connections as they occur to him, and yet keep his access to the great world of instinct uncluttered. A characteristic Ryder now gives that impression by accident; Jensen achieves the same effect entirely by design.

Michael Andrews/Albert Pinkham Ryder Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071-377 0107), Tues-Sun 11-5 (Wed to 8), until March 24. Bill Jensen Grob Gallery, 20 Dering Street, W1 (071-493 6732), Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 11-1, until March 15.

### CRITIC'S CHOICE

ALL MADE NEW: The latest part of the National Gallery's progressive refurbishment opens today. The old Western galleries, which will soon constitute the link with the new extension, have been partly remodelled, partly restored to the way they looked in 1911. The largest gallery now called the World Room, houses large Venetian paintings, and the cabinet rooms contain small Dutch. The green damask backgrounds work amazingly well. National Gallery Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-893 3321) Mon-Sat 10-6, Sun 2-6.

GOOD IMPRESSIONS: Few private collections put together so recently can match the wonders of the Earl G. Bührle Collection of Zurich. The present loan is not to be missed, by anyone interested in major Impressionist, important German Impressionist, or just superlative painting of any era. Great Impressionists and other Master Paintings Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-493 7456) daily 10-6, until April 14.

## RECORDS: ROCK AND JAZZ

# Breezy blend with a Cuban flavour

Gloria Estefan: Into the Light (Epic 487782 1)  
Roger McGuinn: Back From Rio (Arista 261 340)  
Gary Burton/Paul Bleys: Night Time, Right Place (Sonet CD1038)  
Soprano Summit in Concert (Concord CDD-4028)

ONE of the more colourful middle-of-the-road performers, Gloria Estefan breezes back into circulation with a typically chic blend of ballads, bounce and beautiful emotions. Into the Light is an album which politely plays the field from the Carpenters-like plaint "Can't Forget You" to the faintly pneumatic dance-floor funk of "Seal Our Fate". What sets Estefan apart from the Whitney Houston and the Manilow is her innate feel for the propulsive salsa rhythms of her Cuban birthplace, backed by her band comprised of ex-Cuban musicians. It remains a formidable ensemble when let off the leash: witness "Light of Love" and "Mama Yo Can't Go", on which the celebrated trumpeter Arturo Sandoval turns in rousing solo breaks that are among the album's high points.

Roger McGuinn, who was the primary force behind the soaring melodies and chiming guitar sound of the Byrds, has returned to the fray with Back From Rio, an album of considerable verve and charm. Contributions from Tom Petty - whose performing style was largely inspired by a study of McGuinn's back-packs - David Crosby and Chris Hillman and others lend extra sparkle to a buoyant set which successfully evokes one of the most majestic and timeless formulas in modern rock.

### DAVID SINCLAIR

ALMOST unnoticed, the pianist Paul Bleys has been issuing a series of remarkably consistent albums, the contents as spare and sleek as a colubine. By making a virtue of restraint - silence is a key component of his



Estefan: Chic blend of ballads, bounce and emotions

work - he has fashioned an recognisable voice: part romantic, part avant-garde. Bleys is scheduled to make a rare visit to London next month, appearing with reeds player Jimmy Griffin and bassist Steve Swallow at the Camden Jazz Festival. In the interim, Right Time, Right Place forms a soothing curtain-raiser. Bleys' elliptical phrasing matched against the professorial vibraphone solos of Gary Burton.

The well-judged selection, divided between duets and solo performances, is a feast of introspection. The mood is that of a friendly chess match between grandmasters. Bleys and Burton are listening to each other intently, deliberating at length over every note. The process is occasionally exhausting for us mere on-lookers. Bearing that in mind, perhaps, the players allow themselves the indulgence of two familiar standards, "You Don't Know What Love Is" and Rodgers and Hart's "Isn't It Romantic?". Bleys' ex-wife, the ever-eccentric Carla, is the composer on "Ida Lupino" and "Ollio de Gato". Soprano Summit's album, In Concert, is another example of two astute musical brains working in harmony. The combination of reeds players Bob Wilber and Kenny Davern, recorded in California in 1976, yields the most unashamedly enjoyable re-issue in months.

Originally inspired by the vintage double-act of Sidney Bechet and Mezz Mezzrow, Soprano Summit made a substantial impact during its relatively brief life. While its prime inspiration lay in the past, its recordings were never dusty museum pieces. Buttressed by thoughtful and unfailingly swinging arrangements, the music-making seemed, on the surface at least, to require the minimum of perspiration. Marty Groez, Ray Brown and Jake Hanna are the perfect sidemen on a programme which opens with Duke Ellington's "Stompy Jones" and closes, aptly enough, with "Swing that Music". Alternating between soprano saxophone and clarinet, Wilber and Davern strike sparks off every tune without resorting to festival-circuit clichés. The eight and a half minutes of "The Grapes are Ready" are a textbook example of how to weave magic from the simplest of themes.

CLIVE DAVIS

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

# Less is more in these lean times

Richard Morrison finds the London orchestras in spirited form this week

FIRST, a comparison. In Chicago last night, music-lovers could hear their city's great orchestra play Prokofiev, Mendelssohn and Hindemith. They could also hear the same programme tonight, and again tomorrow, and on Sunday. That is the pattern throughout North America: one well-rehearsed programme per week to accommodate all subscribers.

At the Festival Hall in London, this was also an ordinary week. On Monday Mozart and Stravinsky were played by the London Philharmonic; on Tuesday, the Philharmonia mixed new British music with Elgar and Dvořák; on Wednesday the Royal Philharmonic brought in Borodin, Mussorgsky and Prokofiev... and so on. Different repertoire and performers each night - and, of course, hot competition from the Barbican. It is a consumer's paradise, so naturally the plan is to change it.

London is moving towards the American model: more recitals, less choice. Of course, few people expect critics to go more than one concert a week anyway. But the real reason for the revolution is a "quality" argument: if there is less repertoire to prepare, won't playing standards rise? Up to a point, Lord Palumbo. So much depends on one big gamble: how the gifted but inexperienced Franz Welser-Möst directed the Festival Hall's newly resident orchestra, the London Philharmonic. Monday's concert was instructive, since Welser-Möst programmed Mozart's Divertimento in D: an innocuous title which masks a sardonic test for string players.

James MacMillan, to conduct his orchestral piece *The Confession of Isobel Gowrie*. Premiered last August, it divides opinion sharply. MacMillan's response to gruesome subject-matter (the burning of a woman accused of witchcraft) is explicitly descriptive: modal and thickly contrapuntal in lament; noisy as hell when the flames are licking the stake. I was gripped.

The Royal Philharmonic's spirited if occasionally untidy concert, under Vladimir Ash-

kenazy, continued its Prokofiev series - though on Wednesday the extracts from *War and Peace* and *Romeo and Juliet* were less impressive than Borodin's Second Symphony and Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, in the Shostakovich orchestrations which fit these settings as snugly as ice-cubes round a corpse. Here was surely the Russian soul from alpha to omega: the Borodin a quilt-work of exotic tunes; the Mussorgsky as gloomy as the

grave. Ashkenazy conducted both stirring, though the coal-toned bass soloist Nikita Storozhev seemed too cheerful for Mussorgsky.

Audiences all week were good, considering how empty some West End theatres are. That is because orchestras had their subscribers and sponsors hooked before the recession took effect. The prospects for next year, however, strike more gloom into players' hearts than a Mussorgsky song-cycle. London's orchestras may again be playing the time they know best: "survival comes first". The planned adventures may have to wait.

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**6.00 Contax:**  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News. The overnight news from the Gulf, analysis and comment. With Laurie Mayer and Jill Dando.  
9.15 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts a studio discussion on wedding days 9.55 Regional News and weather.  
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays 10.30 Dish of the Day prepared by Rosemary Moon 10.40 Brainwave. Quiz game presented by Andy Craig.  
11.00 News, regional and weather 11.05 People Today with Adrian Mills and Debi Jones. Includes the Children Today slot presented by Martin O'Leary.  
12.00 News, regional and weather 12.05 Royal Appointment. The first of a new series introduced by the Queen's former press secretary Ronald Allison. Today he looks to Lord Linley about his furniture-making business and some of his unusual commissions, including a bed for the singer Elton John. 12.20 Scene Today 12.55 Regional News and weather.  
1.00 O'Clock News with Michael Barker. Weather 1.35 Neighbours. (Contax)



Debut as a working-class rebel: Tom Courtenay (1.30pm)

**1.50 Film: The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner (1962, b/w)**  
© CHOICE: Films such as this were all the style in the British cinema of the early Sixties, as it wallowed in the "realism" of location shooting and rebellious working-class heroes. The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner was adapted by Alan Sillitoe from his short story about a rebellious boy and talented athlete (Tom Courtenay) who uses a cross-country race as a way of spitting the governor (Michael Redgrave). The critics were cool about the film, perhaps because they had had their fill of working-class rebels by this time. More justifiable was the attack on the stylistic tricks of the director, Tony Richardson, which seemed to have been imported wholesale from the French new wave. But for all that the film still has its qualities, not least Courtenay's performance. It was his first screen role and he brought to it the nervous, likeable charm that was soon to make him one of the faces of the decade. (Contax)

**8.30 Sheriff Hoot Coot.** Cartoons 3.50 Corners. Inquisitive children's questions answered by Sophie Aldred and Stephen Johnson 4.05 Jackanory. Jane Asher with the last part of The Princess and the Goblin, by George MacDonald 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon series about a bionic baby 4.30 Eye Spy. Code-cracking, observation and spy-catching detection tests introduced by Julian Perkins 4.55 Newsworld Extra 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode ten. (Contax)  
8.55 Neighbours (r). (Contax) Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 Inside

**6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Melina Stuart. Weather 6.35 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.05 Wogan. With George Layton, Robin Newell and Geoffrey Davies, soon to be seen in the new comedy series Doctor at the Top. Bergin star Terence Alexander and Clive Anderson, who takes over on Monday when Terry goes on holiday. Music is provided by the Railway Children.  
7.40 Brush Strokes. Karl Howman as the painter and decorator, looking for his perfect woman in Motspur Park (r). (Contax)  
8.10 Over My Dead Body. Standard American crime series with Edward Woodward as the ex-Scotland Yard man turned thriller writer turned amateur sleuth, teaming up with a young journalist (Jessica Lundy). (Contax)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Barker. (Contax) Regional news

**9.30 The Boys from the Bush.** Patchy funny comedy about an Australian detective agency starring Chris Haywood and Tim Healy (Contax) Northern Ireland: The Show  
10.20 Kane and Abel. The third and final episode of the lunatic mini-series based on Jeffrey Archer's blockbuster tale of tycoon rivalry, starring Peter Strauss and Sam Neill (r) Northern Ireland: The Boys from the Bush 11.05-12.25 Kane and Abel  
11.50 Gulf News  
12.00 Snooker. Highlights of the last quarter-final match of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament from Wembley  
1.00am Gulf News 1.15 Weather

**8.00 News 8.15 Westminster**  
9.00 Daytime on Two: Everyday maths 9.10 For business and industry teachers 9.40 Health studies 10.00 Learning to read 10.20 The Caledonians and the Romans 10.40 Music: vocal round 11.00 Modern Night 11.15 Maths 11.30 GCSE German 11.45 A visit to Rhum Island, owned by the Nature Conservancy Council 12.00 Science in sport 12.20 British Asian teenagers talk about racial harassment 12.50 An extract from Dickens's Great Expectations 1.20 The Broyles narrated by David Shaw Parker 1.40 Teenagers discuss the pros and cons of zoos  
2.00 News and weather followed by Words and Pictures (r) 2.15 Weekend Outlook (r)  
2.20 Sport on Friday. Football: highlights of the week's international friendlies; and Snooker: the Benson and Hedges Masters includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55  
5.00 News followed by Holiday (r) (Contax)  
5.30 Food and Drink (r)  
6.00 Film: Kings of the Sun (1983). Vy Byrner and George Chisholm star in a heavy-going Western which charts the arguments between a group of exiled Mayans and native American Indians and how they finally come to live peacefully together in what comes to be known as Mexico. Directed by J. Lee Thompson. Wales: A Way with Numbers 6.25 Espana Viva 6.50 A vous la France 7.15 Wales in Westminster  
7.45 What the Papers Say. With Julian Nundy of the Independent on

**8.00 Public Eye: Deportation - an unjust system?** An examination of the circumstances surrounding the possible deportation of Iraqi nationals and Palestinian exiles currently detained in British jails. Among those interviewed is the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Haleham  
8.30 Gardens by Design. In the last of his series, garden expert David Stevens compares Slover's landscaped garden with domestic plots. (Contax)  
9.00 Lazarus and Dingwall. Lunning comedy series about two unconventional detectives starring Mark Arden and Stephen Frost, the likely facts from the Carling Black Label adverts. (Contax)

**9.30 Arana: The Strange Story of Joe Meek.**  
© CHOICE: A strange story indeed, providing Alan Lawrence's film with rich if not always edifying material. A song-writer and pioneer independent record producer, Meek was one of the most influential figures in the skiffle and trad movements of the late Fifties. In one of these genres he was responsible for such hits as "Telstar", "Cumberland Gap" and "Lay Down Your Arms". Recording took place in his dim north London flat with the drummer often relegated to the bathroom. In 1967 Meek shot and killed his landlady and then turned the gun on himself. It was an explosive end to a bizarre and tragic life. Brought up by his mother as a girl, Meek was a homosexual during an intolerant period and led a shadowy existence that took him into the criminal underworld. The hatred of rival record producers brought on a paranoia that may have contributed to his early death  
10.30 Newsworld with Jeremy Posen 11.20 Weather  
11.25 Newsnight

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**8.00 TV-AM**  
9.25 ITN Gulf News Report. Latest news and developments from the war zone 9.55 Thames News and weather  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Anna Souby hosts another edition of the discussion series  
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Lesley Ebbetts brings the latest fashion news and Andrew Collins gives advice on how to get your hair in perfect condition  
12.05 Rainbow. Young children's entertainment 12.25 Thames News and weather  
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1.20 Home And Away. Australian soap 1.50 A Country Practice. Drama serial about a rural Australian community health centre  
2.20 Thames Action. Consumer magazine presented by Viv Taylor and Jacqui King 2.50 Give Us A Clue. Michael Parkinson hosts the celebrity charades game. Team leaders Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard are joined by Vicki Michelle, Hilary O'Neil, Paula Wilcox, Tony Stanger, Nino Fretello and Bernie Winters  
3.15 Gulf News Report 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama which follows the personal and private lives of staff and patients in a large city hospital  
3.55 Utterly Brilliant. Timmy Mallett meets mime artist David Glass 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.50 Fun House. Slapstick game show  
5.00 Home And Away (r)  
5.30 News (Contax) and weather  
6.00 The Day. An important 24 hours in the life of a member of the public  
6.05 6 O'Clock Live includes a report on unemployment among white collar workers in the southeast  
7.00 The 864,000 Question. Bob Monkhouse hosts the quiz in which contestants can win up to £5,400  
7.30 Coronation Street. More drama from the residents of Weatherfield. (Contax)  
8.00 Gulf Report followed by Watching. Labouring northern sitcom about an ill-matched couple (Paul Brown and Emma Wray), which still manages to draw huge audiences. Malcolm is feeling nervous as the wedding day looms and not even David's assurances that nothing will go wrong as planned can ease his mind. (Contax)  
8.30 Surgical Spirit. Robust medical comedy with Nicholas McAvoy as the imperious surgeon. Sheila and Joyce decide to have a break from the stress of working in the hospital and go on a girls' night out. Their antics result in an admirer landing up in hospital. (Contax)

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# BUSINESS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8 1991

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27  
● FOCUS: KENT 28,29  
● LAW 33  
● SPORT 34-38

## Sugar beet factories to close

BRITISH Sugar, which was bought by Associated British Foods from Berisford International in January for £880 million, is closing two of its 12 factories at a cost of up to 230 jobs.

The company said it would try to relocate some employees from the beet processing plants at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Brigg, Humberside, and that it will spend more than £170 million over the next five years on boosting factory efficiency.

### Publisher sold

Macmillan, the American book publishing subsidiary of Maxwell Communication Corporation, has acquired Dillon Press, a children's book publisher, for an undisclosed price. Dillon's operations will move from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Macmillan's offices in New York and New Jersey.

### Irish merger

TWO of Dublin's oldest financial firms are merging to form Ireland's largest private client broker. Bloxham Maguire is joining McCaw Fleming & Judd, to form Bloxham Stockbrokers. The combined firm, which will remain a partnership, will have more than 15,000 clients.

### Unitech slides

Unitech, the electronic components maker, suffered a 29 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £8.8 million in the six months to November, but has held its interim dividend at 4.2 pence a share. The group expects to raise £14.6 million before tax from selling shares in Nemco Lambda, its quoted Japanese subsidiary, which will also issue £10.7 million of new shares, cutting Unitech's stake to 52 per cent.

Temps, page 23

### THE POUND

US dollar (-0.0085)  
German mark  
2.8990 (-0.0055)  
Exchange index  
94.4 (-0.1)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1756.2 (+37.4)  
FT-SE 100  
2243.7 (+48.9)  
New York Dow Jones  
2944.55 (+13.61)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
24104.43 (+152.39)

Closing Prices ... Page 26

### INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 14%  
3-month interbank 13% 13%  
3-month eligible bills 12% 12%  
US: Prime Rate 9%  
Federal Funds 6% 6%  
3-month Treasury Bill 5.92-5.91%  
30-year bonds 10.8% 10.8%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£: \$1.9945  
£: DM2.9590  
£: SfrF2.4652  
£: FF4.3307  
£: Yen127.90  
£: Index 94.4  
£: SDR 0.705628  
£: ECU 1.70785  
£: SDR 1.370753

### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$363.50 pm \$363.50  
close \$365.25-365.75 (€183.50-184.50)  
New York:  
Comex \$369.75-370.25

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) ... \$20.10/bbl (\$20.15)  
Denotes latest trading prices

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	2.25
Austria Sch	21.40	20.50
Belgium Fr	66.50	65.50
Canada Cdn	72	72
Denmark Kr	17.67	16.97
Finland Mk	14.42	13.87
France Fr	10.27	9.87
Germany DM	3.05	2.93
Greece Dr	330	310
Hong Kong \$	16.00	15.50
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lit	2290	2140
Japan Yen	271	255
Netherlands Gld	3.41	3.30
Norway Kr	11.85	11.15
Portugal Esc	207	200
South Africa Rd	6.55	6.35
Spain Ptas	166.50	163.50
Sweden Sfr	10.70	10.70
Switzerland Fr	2.575	2.405
Turkey Lira	57.50	57.50
US\$	2.095	1.985
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	27.00

Prices for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 128.9 (December)

ALL BOX NO. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:  
BOX NO. DEPT.,  
P.O. BOX 484,  
VIRGINIA STREET  
WAPPING  
LONDON  
E1 9DD

## Top companies in appeal to save Gatt talks

By MARTIN BARROW

LEADERS of more than 60 of the world's largest companies today make an unprecedented appeal to governments to save the stalled Uruguay round of international trade talks from total collapse.

The appeal, made through the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), said governments should restart negotiations "as a matter of extreme urgency" and bring them promptly to a successful conclusion.

Prospects of a return to normal economic growth when war in the Gulf ends will otherwise be "gravely damaged", they say. Signatories include the chairman and chief executives of leading industrial concerns in 27 countries, including Britain, Germany, America, Japan, France, Italy, Scandinavia, Australia and Canada.

British signatories are Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, Sir Peter Holmes, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, Patrick Gillam, managing director of BP, and Sir George Turnbull, chairman of Inchope.

Italy is represented by Giovanni Agnelli and Carlo De Benedetti, heads of Fiat and Olivetti respectively. German signatories include Karlheinz Kaske of Siemens, Werner Dieter of Mannesmann, Edvard Reuter of Daimler-Benz, and Rolf Sammet of Hoechst. Other European companies include Volkswagen, Philips, Carlberg, Dresdner Bank,

Lyonnais des Eaux and Pirelli. IBM's John Akers, Frank Popoff of Dow Chemical, James Robinson of American Express and John Reed of Citicorp sign for the United States. Akio Morita of Sony, Joichi Aoi of Toshiba and Yotari Kobayashi of Fuji Xerox are among Japanese signatories.

The appeal was launched at the initiative of Joseph Connor, chairman of Price Waterhouse and president of the ICC. Dr Peter Walkenberg, a past president, and Hari Shankar Singhania, a vice-president of ICC, are also signatories.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), under which the Uruguay round of talks was held, has powered "the greatest expansion of global living standards in the history of mankind".

Definitive failure of the round would invite growing protectionism, inward-looking regional trading blocs and inefficient bilateral arrangements. This would increase uncertainties and risks facing business and threaten investment, growth and employment.

The businessmen's call for the Uruguay round to produce a balanced package of reforms that would enable world business to respond to new challenges of a market-oriented world economy and would benefit developed and developing nations alike.

They emphasise that there must be a breakthrough in agriculture to salvage the talks, which stumbled over farm reform at the meeting of

world trade ministers in December, pitting the European Community against America and members of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters.

America, which objects to aspects of Europe's common agricultural policy, has already moved to curb imports of meat from the Community. America rejected European offers to reduce subsidies by 30 per cent over ten years, jeopardising efforts to liberalise trade in services, textiles, patents and semi-conductors.

The collapse of the talks prompted deep concern, among those, including the prime minister, who fear that a retreat from free world trade will brake growth and fuel recession worldwide.

The impasse over agricultural trade caused the Brussels meeting to founder, said the ICC. "It is clear to us that the round will not be resumed unless agreement can be reached on a credible framework for negotiations in this area."

The ICC also wants new multilateral rules to liberalise international trade in services, to strengthen the protection of intellectual property rights, and to discipline investment measures that distort international trade.

ICC members conclude: "We stress that time is running out. In the next two or three weeks important work will have to be done to enable a successful conclusion."

Comment, page 23

## Etam rejects Oceana's bid

ETAM, the fashion retailer, has rejected an approach by Oceana Investment Corporation to acquire 50 per cent of the group. Etam said it did not regard the proposals as serious. UBS Phillips & Drew, the group's adviser, does not believe them to be in the best interests of shareholders (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Etam is believed to have received two draft proposals from Oceana, a quoted investment company run by the

South African Lewis family. One is believed to have involved a rights issue by Etam, which would have been underwritten by Oceana. The proposals are believed to have valued Etam's shares at 140p, which would value the group at £91 million. Oceana has a 4.4 per cent stake in Etam.

Etam yesterday dismissed the approach after a discussion with the Takeover Panel which had noted the recent rise in Etam's shares.

The shares closed up 10p at 117p, valuing Etam at £76.4 million. The shares have risen steadily since their low last September of 56p.

Oceana has interests in a chain of Dutch restaurants and made profits of £607,000 (£411,000) for the year to end-March 1990. It is unclear how Oceana's proposal to leave 50 per cent of Etam in the hands of its existing shareholders would circumvent Takeover Panel rules.

## Sainsbury to close two Homebases

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

J SAINSBURY is to close two of its Homebase do-it-yourself stores tomorrow. The closures at Great Yarmouth and Blackpool will affect 59 jobs. While efforts will be made to relocate staff, Sainsbury says some redundancies are inevitable.

Sainsbury says the decision is based on a continued poor level of trade at the stores and limited prospects for improvement. But the group says the closures do not reflect overall company performance, which Sainsbury says is good in difficult trading conditions.

A Sainsbury spokesman said the two stores which are to close were trading at below half the level of a low trading store. Verdict, the market research group, estimates that the average turnover of a typical Homebase is about £30 million a year. Most of the

stores are in excess of 40,000 square feet.

Sainsbury remains committed to developing the Homebase chain, which includes 63 stores, and the group says its progress will be governed in part by the vigour of the housing market, which has recently been depressed by high interest rates. Six Homebase stores are planned to open in 1991-2, with a number of sites identified for the future.

Homebase made operating profits of £10.9 million on sales of £174.4 million for the year to March 1990. The DIY market has been one of the worst affected by the recession because of its dependence on the housing market. DIY retailers are now looking to Easter, the traditionally busy time for DIY.

## Kuwaiti banks to repay \$1bn debts

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KUWAITI banks are preparing to repay more than \$1 billion in global interbank debts, frozen since the Iraqi invasion last August. This will allow the banks to begin trading again in readiness for the country's liberation.

Meanwhile the United Bank of Kuwait, a British bank owned by a group of Kuwaiti institutions, has announced a 34 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.5 million for last year.

Seven Kuwaiti banks are liquidating their assets, including loan books and money market securities, to repay the interbank lines. The operation should be completed in the next few days.

The settlement will unfreeze the banks and re-establish their position in the international capital markets. The

operation is being overseen by the Central Bank of Kuwait, now based in the City. It has guaranteed the debts of all the commercial banks.

The banks' assets outside Kuwait were frozen in August by central banks to prevent them falling into Iraqi hands. Since then the National Bank of Kuwait, the country's largest and most international bank, has resumed trading. The United Bank suffered a net extraordinary loss of £13.5 million from the invasion. It wrote off loans of £11.3 million in Kuwait and £2.3 million in Iraq before a tax credit.

The bank was also forced to write off a \$4.44 million loss on a \$150 million investment portfolio which was sold in the hours after the invasion on August 2.

## City watchdog dismisses a fifth of its staff

By JON ASHWORTH

FIMBRA, the City regulator that has the task of keeping Britain's independent financial advisers in check, is itself running into financial difficulties. It made at least 40 employees redundant yesterday, in the face of annual costs of £4.3 million.

Today is make or break day for Fimbra, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, and a crucial meeting will be held at its headquarters.

Paul Dickson, the deputy chief executive, was one of the redundancies - out of 190 staff. He has been given three months' notice. Michael Winterton, the legal director, was made redundant on January 16, and has not been replaced. Three of Fimbra's five compliance managers - a busy and overworked team - were told to leave last Friday.

Today's meeting will be held at

Fimbra's Marsh Wall headquarters, in the shadow of Canary Wharf. Faced with huge running costs and a shrinking membership, and after a succession of embarrassing City collapses, the watchdog is expected to make a statement about its future.

Godfrey Jilings, the recently appointed chief executive, is believed to have been in touch with both the Securities and Investments Board and the trade department, requesting urgent financial assistance. Without it, he is advised, Fimbra faces insolvency.

When he took up his position in November, Mr Jilings promised a general review of the entire Fimbra operation. Now, more than 40 people have lost their jobs, and the financial advisers who have to pay up to £2,000 in membership fees each year are wondering, not without reason, what on earth is going on.

Fimbra was keeping a brave face: any

job cuts, it insisted, would "in no way affect the very high degree of investor protection which is afforded by financial regulation".

Those who follow Fimbra's progress from outside do not entirely agree. Marjorie Morham, the shadow trade and industry spokeswoman, said the turn of events made a mockery of financial self-regulation, the system of investor protection brought in by the Financial Services Act 1986.

"This calls into question the whole structure of the present self-regulatory system," she said. "One wonders what action the government is going to take in the light of this obvious failure."

Each new City controversy, from the collapse of Dunsdale Securities to the failure of the Levitt Group, has unleashed a fresh barrage of criticism on Fimbra. Today, Fimbra has the opportunity to either start afresh or admit that it is not up to the task.



On the move: Nigel Walsley is leaving Capital Radio for Carlton

## Thames TV in bid talks

By MARTIN WALLER

THAMES TV, the weekday London area ITV contractor, has announced surprise bid talks that could value the company at between £125 million and £150 million or 250p to 300p a share.

The news came on the day Nigel Walsley revealed he was leaving Capital Radio, where he is managing director, for Carlton Communications, Michael Green's film and television services group, to head a team bidding for a large independent TV franchise.

Thames said discussions were "at an advanced stage which may lead to an imminent offer". The announcement was apparently forced on the company by a rising share price, up 35p to 308p before the news. The shares ended 18p higher at 291p.

The news came as a surprise because Thames is expected to

face fierce competition in the forthcoming franchise round. Any bidder could be a European group keen to move into British TV ahead of this.

The putative bidder would need the agreement of BET and Thorne EMI, which together own 56 per cent of Thames. There were suggestions that Thorne, tired of sitting on a potential loss on its 28 per cent, might itself bid. Thorne would not comment.

Carlton had been known to be considering a bid for an independent franchise, but the appointment of Mr Walsley, who steered Capital successfully through the renewal of its own radio franchise in 1983, came as a surprise. Carlton shares jumped 8p to 377p.

Carlton is known to have identified one franchise area in particular, and its choice is almost certainly in the South.

The group already owns 20 per cent of Central TV and is therefore unlikely to compete against the incumbent.

The favourites are the franchises occupied by LWT, the London weekend broadcaster, Thames itself and TVS Entertainment, the contractor for the south of England. "I believe they are likely to go for the London weekday franchise," said Bronwen Maddox, TV analyst at Kleinwort Benson.

Mr Walsley joins formally in three months as chief executive of a specially formed subsidiary, Carlton Television.

He is thought to be going on a two-year contract at substantially more than the £161,000 he earned in Capital's last financial year.

Chart, page 27

## Shares surge 2.2% on rate hopes

By OUR CITY STAFF

CITY investors embarked on another massive spending spree in the stock market, convinced that a cut in bank base rates is on the way.

The FT-SE 100 index surged 48.9 points, or 2.2 per cent, to 2,243.7 - its highest level since August 9 - as almost 600 million shares changed hands in active trading.

Government securities also enjoyed an active session, encouraged by the scent of cheaper money. The government broker was able to sell remaining supplies of the new Treasury 9 per cent 2,000 with prices at the longer end sporting gains of up to 1/2p.

Dealers said prices had been marked sharply higher first thing on the back of a near 43-point rise overnight on Wall Street. But it took time for the full weight of buying to materialise, with many fund managers struggling to work late against the arctic conditions.

With only a brief hiccup on news of the mortar bomb attack on Downing Street, share prices grew in confidence throughout the day before closing near the top, helped by another encouraging start in New York.

Leading brokers claim that attempts by the Bank of England to dampen speculation about an early cut in bank base rates have been futile.

Money markets also continued to anticipate an early reduction in base rates. The three-month interbank rate, the closest parallel in money markets to clearing bank base rates, was around the 13.5 per cent mark, already discounting a half-point fall in base rates.

Gold remained stagnant throughout most of the day. The afternoon fix was \$363.90 an ounce, up 40 cents on the previous close. Silver bullion was fixed at 380 cents an ounce at midday, its lowest fixing for 17 years.

Foreign exchanges were quieter yesterday, with the pound closing at \$1.9980, down 0.3 cents, and at DM2.8971, down 0.59 pence. The trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 94.4.

Markets, page 27



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COMMISSION FOR THE NEW TOWNS  
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# KLM losses will continue 'to 1994' as 3,000 staff go

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines is to reduce its staff by 3,000, from a current 25,000, it was revealed yesterday as the company plunged into a third quarter net loss of £1213.9 million (£65.5 million).

The loss, which surpassed even the most pessimistic forecasts, compares with a net profit of £158 million in the same period last year.

The company blamed the worldwide economic downturn and the Gulf war for its problems.

The Gulf war affected KLM's load factor, the average amount of seats sold compared with those available for sale. This fell to a low of 65.8 per cent in January, down from 69.7 per cent in December.

The load factor is a crucial element in airline profits, which depend disproportionately

ally on marginal seats sold as well as the position in the aircraft because first class and business class seats make much higher profits.

A company spokesman said that KLM does not expect to return to profit until the financial year ending in March 1994.

Last October KLM indicated the scale of its problems when it issued a warning that it will make a loss in the current year.

The company has decided to reduce capacity as a result of its problems. In a statement, the company said: "Based on the current decline in traffic and forecasts that complete recovery is improbable in the short term, it has been decided to restrict the capacity to be deployed in the years 1991-2 and 1992-3."

"Capacity will be reduced by one Boeing 747 and one Airbus A310, and leased aircraft on order will be postponed. This will also result in a reduction in the workforce."

Last October the company said that 500 jobs in non-core departments would be lost, but yesterday another 600 redundancies were added, including those of service personnel.

Another 2,000 jobs will be taken out of the company's payroll through divestments of peripheral activities.

The divestments will affect KLM's training department, ground vehicle maintenance, fire brigades, food and catering division and some heavy engineering activities among others.

Shares in KLM were suspended in Amsterdam for two hours yesterday morning and later closed at £120.50, up £10.20.

KLM's financial problems reflect those of many other European airlines, which have been hit hard by the recession.

The situation has grown worse since the outbreak of the Gulf war, as frightened passengers, in particular businessmen, have scaled down their air travel because they fear terrorist attacks.

Lufthansa, the German state airline, fell to a break-even position last year, after 1989 net earnings of DM110 million.

## Interest helps lift Seacon

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SEACON Holdings, the shipping and transport group, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.33 million to £1.58 million in the year to end-September.

Interest receipts rose from £176,135 to £231,562, helped by the proceeds from the sale of Milford Docks. Interest payments were trimmed from £135,021 to £84,372, while turnover fell from £17.9 million to £17.3 million.

Earnings per share fell to 13.91p (17.46p), largely due to a higher number of shares in issue, while fully diluted earnings slipped to 11.33p (12.02p). The final dividend is raised to 2.3p (1.95p), making an improved total of 3.5p (3.15p) for the year.

An extraordinary gain of £2.21 million related to the sale of Milford Docks.

The company said performance improved in the second half because of reduced operating costs and a stronger and more stable rate of exchange between the pound and mark. The shares rose 5p to 95p.



Sale confirmed: Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of Davy Corporation

## Davy sells German interests

DAVY Corporation, the engineering and construction group, has confirmed the sale of its entire German operation, consisting of two businesses, Zimmer and Davy Bammag, for DM277.5 million to Metallgesellschaft, the German industrial group.

Davy will, on completion, be paid DM204.75 million and the balance this September, subject to any warranty claims. Zimmer makes plant to manufacture artificial fibres while Bammag produces water treatment equipment.

Further disposals are expected from the group in due course.

Tempus, page 23

## William Cook drops Telfos bid after 'change in status'

By MARTIN BARROW

WILLIAM Cook has lapsed its ill-fated takeover bid for Telfos Holdings, citing a material change in the railway engineering group's financial status and claiming it has fallen into "a disastrous position".

However, Andrew Cook, chairman of William Cook, hinted that he may be prepared to return with a revised offer for Telfos. "I would

welcome an opportunity to resurrect our discussions and to attempt to arrive at a realistic evaluation of Telfos' current and future position."

Shares in Telfos traded at 65p following the announcement. On Wednesday they collapsed 41p to 57p after Price Waterhouse, its auditor, advised the company to make further provisions of £13 million against non-core investments, raising the total level of

provisions for 1990 to £22 million. William Cook's cash and shares offer was originally worth 114p a share, valuing Telfos at £36 million.

In addition to the provisions, William Cook and its adviser, Hambros Bank, drew attention to other disclosures which, they believe, have materially changed Telfos' financial and trading position. These include a revised estimate of net assets attributable to shareholders of just £9.2 million, or 29p a share, even though Telfos raised more than £18 million from equity issues last year; estimated pre-tax losses of £300,000 for 1990, compared with expectations of profits of £5 million; and concern over Ganz-Hausel in Hungary, of which it owns 51 per cent.

Comment, page 23

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## Talks with backers confirmed by Alders

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALLDERS, the department store and duty free group, has confirmed it is in talks with its financial backers.

Harvey Lipsitch, the chief executive, said the talks were intended to address long-term issues in 1994 and beyond since a short-term flotation was not feasible given current market conditions.

Mr Lipsitch denied Alders was in financial difficulty and said the group had the full support of all its financial backers. He added that the group's suppliers had been paid and are continuing to be paid promptly in accordance with agreed terms.

Mr Lipsitch said: "Trading conditions are tough, but we have been predicting and planning for these for a considerable time. The Gulf war is not having a material impact on our total business. While UK airport business is down, this represents only a small proportion of our worldwide business."

Paul Brooks, a non-executive director, said the group owed its bankers £100 million and Hanson £40 million. He said it was too early to say what the outcome of the talks with the financial backers would be.

The group's share price fell 288.2p (327.0p). Earnings per share slipped from 13.99p to 13.36p. The final dividend has been trimmed to 6p (8.5p), making a total of 16p (12.5p) for the year.

THE Norwegian state prosecutor has fined Norway's oil firm Saga Petroleum Nkr5 million (£264,038) for violating the country's petroleum law when handling a North Sea oil well that went out of control.

The crippled exploration well had an underwater blow-out in January 1989. It was first brought under control the following December and sealed in March 1990. Saga, Norway's only fully private oil firm, denied the charges, saying its view was backed by international experts. Saga said it would assess the state prosecutor's letter and decide within the next two weeks whether to pay the fine. If it decides not to, the prosecutor will take the company to court.

THE net asset value at Children's Medical Charity Investment Trust stood at 79.6p per ordinary share at end-December (98.8p). The trust's pre-tax surplus fell from £71,402 to £50,025 in the year to end-December, while gross revenue declined to £71,386 (£87,280). Revenue from investments fell to £56,792 (£59,806) and interest receipts slipped to £14,594 (£23,100).

THE net asset value at Primadonna, the investment trust, fell to 153.38p per share at end-December, compared with 181.94p six months earlier and 216.7p the previous year. Pre-tax profits increased from £205,048 to £332,673 in the six months to end-December. Earnings per share climbed from 3.67p to 4.94p. The interim dividend is 2p, against 1.5p last time.

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## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Gaynor Group shares suspended at 7½p

SHARES in Gaynor Group, the troubled Unilever Securities Market manufacturer of plastic bags and packaging film, have been suspended at 7½p at the company's request, "pending clarification of the company's financial position".

Peter Giles, managing director, said: "We are in discussions with our bankers."

In December, the shares collapsed from 23p to 3p after pre-tax losses deepened to £1.54 million for the year to end August. The company blamed the losses on a jump in raw material costs and the loss of two big supermarket customers.

The switch by the two customers was largely responsible for a 23 per cent drop in turnover to £6.41 million. The Gulf war resulted in a 50 per cent jump in raw material costs. The company has not exceeded its £3½ million debt facility, but was still trading at a loss.

Revenue slips at Hotspur

HOTSPUR Investments, the investment trust formerly known as the British Kidney Patient Association Investment Trust, suffered a decline in pre-tax revenue from £115,672 to £110,121 in the year to end-December. The net asset value fell to 288.2p (327.0p). Earnings per share slipped from 13.99p to 13.36p. The final dividend has been trimmed to 6p (8.5p), making a total of 16p (12.5p) for the year.

Intericare in black again

INTERCARE Group, the fast-growing USM-quoted optical, dental and medical supplies group, is back in the black with pre-tax profits of £504,000 in the year to end-October, compared with a £108,000 loss last time. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, surged from £1.18 million to £6.78 million. Intericare is paying a maiden dividend of 1.25p. Earnings per share stood at 4.1p against a 1.9p loss.

North Sea oil fine

THE Norwegian state prosecutor has fined Norway's oil firm Saga Petroleum Nkr5 million (£264,038) for violating the country's petroleum law when handling a North Sea oil well that went out of control.

The crippled exploration well had an underwater blow-out in January 1989. It was first brought under control the following December and sealed in March 1990. Saga, Norway's only fully private oil firm, denied the charges, saying its view was backed by international experts. Saga said it would assess the state prosecutor's letter and decide within the next two weeks whether to pay the fine. If it decides not to, the prosecutor will take the company to court.

Fall in net asset value

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Ericsson share slump

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## Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Greyhound	Property	
2	Dynaflex	Industrials A-D	
3	Baker PLC	Building Roads	
4	Motors (John)	Drugs, Stores	
5	MB Canada 74 Pl	Industrials L-R	
6	Vaco Group	Breweries	
7	Waco Water	Water	
8	Nile Foods	Food	
9	Lafco	Metals/Automatic	
10	British Gas	Oil/Gas	
11	NRC	Transport	
12	Berkeley	Bank, Discount	
13	Wilson Bowden	Building Roads	
14	Bobby OJ	Industrials A-D	
15	Norcross	Industrials L-R	
16	Dixons Grp	Drugs, Stores	
17	Dunelm	Electricals	
18	Abbey National	Bank, Discount	
19	Tate & Lyle	Food	
20	Brown Shipley	Bank, Discount	
21	Nichols (UN) (Vint)	Food	
22	Beattie	Property	
23	Land Sec	Industrials E-K	
24	BOC Group	Food	
25	BOC	Industrials A-D	
26	Scammard	Industrials S-Z	
27	Argill	Food	
28	Hartley & Hutton	Breweries	
29	Charles Int	Industrials A-D	
30	GRN	Industrials E-K	
31	BET Grp	Industrials A-D	
32	Wagon & Platts	Food	
33	MIFC	Property	
34	Smiths Group	Drugs, Stores	
35	Waco Water	Water	
36	Newman Foods	Food	
37	BWT	Industrials A-D	
38	Smurfit (Laf)	Paper, Print, Ad	
39	Adco	Building Roads	
40	Meyer Int	Building Roads	
41	Courts Foresters	Drugs, Stores	
42	Time Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

### BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price

SHORTS Under Five Years

Company	High	Low	Gain %	Price
1. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
2. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
3. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
4. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
5. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
6. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
7. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
8. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
9. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
10. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Gain %	Price
1. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
2. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
3. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
4. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
5. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
6. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
7. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
8. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
9. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
10. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Gain %	Price
1. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
2. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
3. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
4. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
5. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
6. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
7. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
8. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
9. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
10. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08

UNDATED

Company	High	Low	Gain %	Price
1. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
2. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
3. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
4. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
5. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
6. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
7. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
8. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
9. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
10. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08

INDEX LINKED

Company	High	Low	Gain %	Price
1. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
2. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
3. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
4. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
5. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
6. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
7. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
8. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
9. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08
10. British Fund	1.10	1.05	4.8	1.08

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price

1. British Fund

2. British Fund

3. British Fund

4. British Fund

5. British Fund

6. British Fund

7. British Fund

8. British Fund

9. British Fund

10. British Fund

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Strong advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 28. Dealings end today. \$Contango day Monday. Settlement day February 18.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### BREWERIES

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### ELECTRICITY

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### FINANCE, LAND

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### FOODS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### DRAPERY, STORES

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### INDUSTRIALS A-D

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

### ELECTRICALS

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08

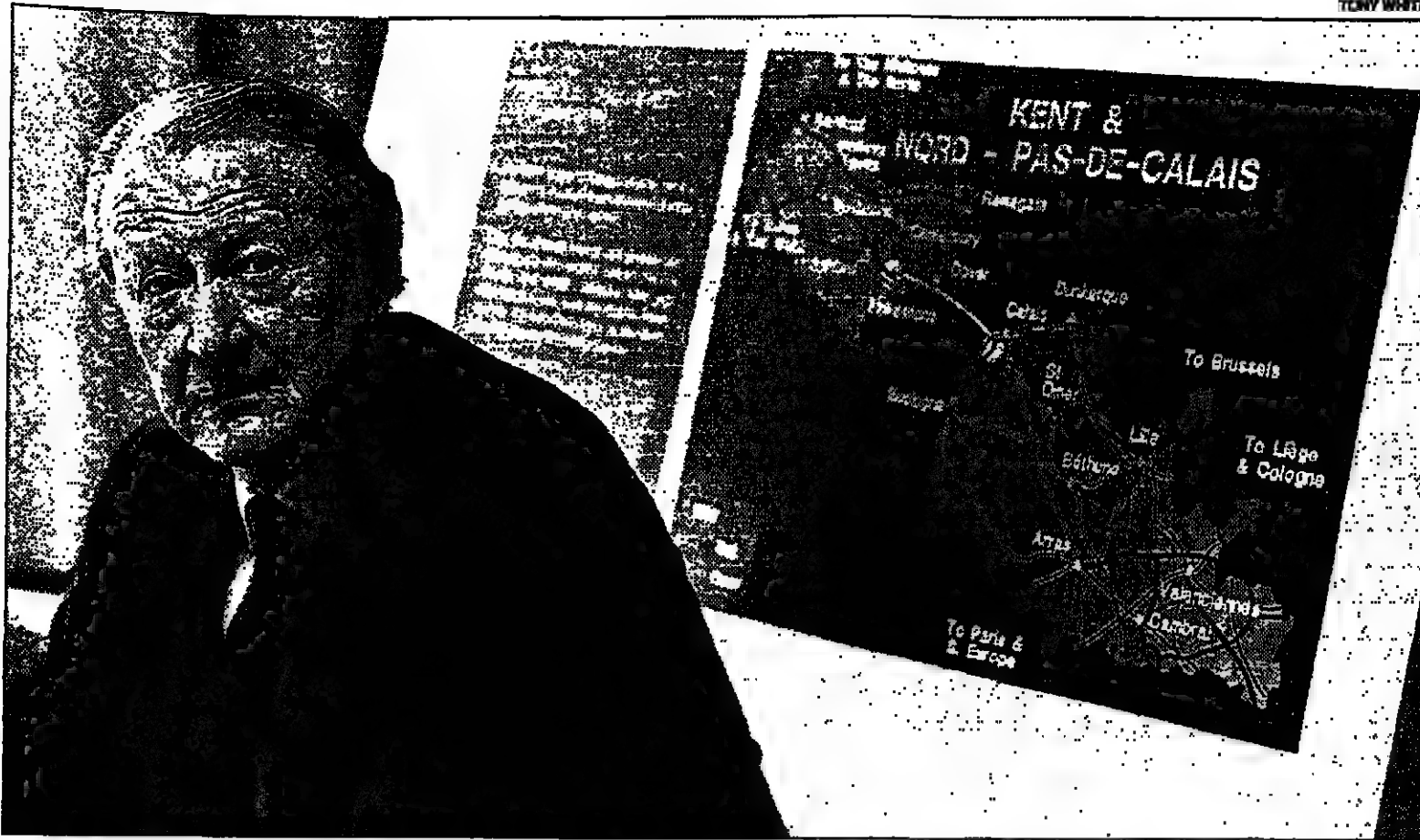
### BREWERIES

1990/91 High Low Gain % Price	1990/91 High Low Gain % Price
1. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
2. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
3. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
4. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
5. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
6. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
7. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
8. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
9. British Fund	1.10 1.05 4.8 1.08
10. British Fund	1.10 1









European dimension: Tony Hart with a map showing the "unique" link his council has created with Nord-Pas-de-Calais in northern France

## Kent puts Calais on the map

The days have gone when county councillors' interest stopped at their county boundary, but even modern councils are surprised — and perhaps a little envious — at Kent's links with the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, which faces the county across the Channel. These links were formalised last year to produce the *Région Transmanche*, made up of Kent's 1.5 million people and 4.5 million in France.

The ties between them have already produced joint programmes for economic development, vocational training, tourism and new technologies, and considerable financial benefits. The Transmanche Euroregion is not like those twin-town arrangements suspected by local voters to be merely an excuse for civic dinners for dignitaries. Euroregions which cross a frontier are eligible for multi-million pound European Community grants.

The EC had never before had to consider a frontier region whose two parts were

The European Commission is showering the county with grants for its continental initiatives. Bill Cater reports

separated by anything wider than a river, but at county hall in Maidstone the European team worked with its opposite numbers in the regional council of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais to put a trans-frontier development programme to the EC, and won their regional status.

The idea that close links with Europe can bring prosperity to the county is shared by Kent councillors of various political colours, and by officials, in spite of some problems with voters, who see Europe only in the painful context of Channel Tunnel disruption and the Nimby — "Not In My Back Yard" — attitude to the tunnel's rail links.

Tony Hart, the leader of Kent County Council, says: "We are the only county with a European dimension, officially recognised by the EC. We've seen Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, two or three

times and he is very supportive. I'm trying now to put a much bigger organisation together: Kent, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Flanders, and Wallonia; and Brussels wants to get into it as well.

"We want a northern association to be some effective opposition to what is going on in the south of Europe, where they are getting together to influence the 1993 cash allocations in Brussels. We have got to do the same if we are to get our fair share."

With less than total respect to national governments, Britain's included, Mr Hart describes how a border region authority should go about getting money out of the EC.

"We, with Nord-Pas-de-Calais, don't allow our governments to tell us what to do; we work out what we want to do, prepare our scheme, then we rewrite it so it sounds right to politicians in London. They

rewrite it so it sounds right to politicians in Paris. People in other border regions just let their governments put schemes up, and that is not what the European Commission wants."

Learning the ropes of European negotiation has paid off for Kent. "In 1986," Mr Hart says, "we got just £40,000 out of Europe. Since then we have totted up between £24 million and £30 million, because we know our way round; we put up a scheme and deliver the goods. Brussels knows that if it gives us the money it will get what it pays for. We have an office there, actually opposite the European Commission, and we already act on behalf of other southern counties which don't have the resources."

To those who fear that co-operation across the Channel will diminish Kent's ability to get its fair share of new industry and commerce, Mr Hart says: "I don't believe the

people of Kent generally want vast amounts of development. We are going to prosper by keeping some industry at bay. Otherwise we shall destroy our heritage; terrible for the people of Kent and counter-productive in the long run.

"We have a difficult balancing act. We need industry and commerce in the east of Kent, where the unemployment problems are, and in the riverside strip where old industries like cement, threatened with cheap supplies from Greece and elsewhere in Europe, and heavy engineering, are all in decline. But I would be hung, drawn and quartered if I plastered west Kent with more industry."

What his county wants, Mr Hart says, is high-tech industry and business — such as those being attracted to a county development on the old West Malling aerodrome.

Developments of this kind demand the best-educated workforce. Symbolically, Kent's economic development board has been incorporated into the county's training and enterprise council. This operates under a performance contract with the government, linking about 100 public and private sector bodies concerned with business development in the county, and responsible for promoting investment in training.

County-wide schemes tend to be supported by all the political parties. Kent's MPs are Conservatives, but local authorities are politically more evenly divided. Some Conservative town councillors have found themselves accused, by more rigid supporters, of interventionism, if not creeping socialism, in their efforts to boost tourism or industry.

### Parks mean business

Kent has been developing six business parks, each of more than 100 acres, including the 640 acres at Kingshill, West Malling, one of the largest business parks in Europe (writes Rodney Hobson).

Tony Hart, the leader of Kent council, says: "We are developing what will be the finest science/industry park in northern Europe at West Malling. The kind of activity we want there, high-tech and financial services, will, we hope, attract the people now in those occupations in London who have to commute."

"We are not having warehousing on it, not having supermarkets, just high-tech places with one or two small shops. I'm sick of seeing industrial estates with awful buildings."

"We've put together a package which involves Penn state university, Thames poly, Kent university and ourselves, and we are also going to put in an education unit which will offer business-related degrees."

Another academically blessed science park, called Eureka, is to go up at Ashford, about 30 miles to the south-east and close to the Channel Tunnel M20 link.

Chatham maritime park covers 350 acres on the site of the old naval dockyard, including six acres with enterprise zone status. On the eastern side a dock basin has been converted into a commercial port.

The other large parks are the 165-acre Kent International Business Park at Thanet, the 150-acre Crossways park near Dartford, and Orbital park, close to the M20 at Ashford, which is due for completion in 1993.

## County gears up for jobs in the pipeline

European companies are establishing British bases as they prepare an attack on our markets, Rodney Hobson writes

The Kent training and enterprise council (TEC) claims to be unique among the 82 TECs set up around the country. It has absorbed the existing Kent Economic Development Board (KEDB) so that companies coming to Kent have trained workforces on tap.

As the nearest part of the UK to continental Europe, Kent is attractive to overseas companies seeking to establish a British base in the run-up to 1992.

For the past six years, the KEDB had been responsible for promoting Kent as a business location, helping to boost the number of foreign firms with operations in the county to more than 130.

In November, the TEC, based at Chatham, took over. The aim is to maintain the inflow of investment and simultaneously to match employers' training needs to supply.

To get the equation right, Kent TEC launched an extensive consultation programme in the months before it took up its duties, mailing a brochure and questionnaire to almost 20,000 Kent companies, individuals and organisations. Directors and staff held ten open days in major towns in the county and more than 750 organisations were invited to attend consultation meetings with specialist groups.

John Forsdyke, the chief executive of Kent TEC, says: "The consultation period was invaluable. We had 18,000 people giving us a wide cross-section of views."

"The integration of the development board has gone very quickly, and having the leader and chief executive of the county council on the



Tunnel vision: Alastair Morton wants infrastructure

board makes for a good working relationship."

Having the TEC as an umbrella organisation is important, given that there are about 70 public and private sector bodies in the county carrying out work on business development.

Mr Forsdyke says: "It does make it difficult to have so many agencies. We have got the major players round the table and started to sort out our objectives with bodies such as enterprise agencies and chambers of commerce."

The TEC is giving high priority to examining overlaps and duplication in order to focus and co-ordinate future activities. These will include business advice and consultancy, international trade development and financial support schemes.

Mr Forsdyke believes three sectors of the economy need special attention. He believes the county will require new skills in tourism, with emphasis on hotels and catering; financial services will need more clerical staff despite the current national economic

downturn; and technical skills should be encouraged in mechanical engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and printing.

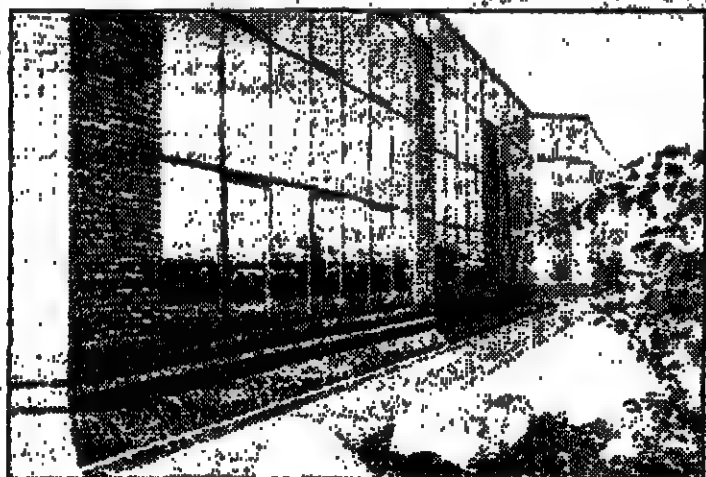
The call for a skilled workforce is underlined by the fact that Kent will have 15,000 fewer youngsters aged 16-24 by 1994, a drop of about 21 per cent. Mr Forsdyke admits: "It will make a difficult picture for recruitment. Despite the current unemployment levels, the underlying population problem remains."

Alastair Morton, the co-chairman of Eurotunnel and Kent TEC chairman, says: "Kent is suddenly being transformed, and can end up either as a pipe between the rest of Britain and continental Europe, or a gearbox."

"A pipe is empty and used for passing matter through as quickly as possible with as little friction as possible. A gearbox is something that transforms and is a source of energy or a means of transmitting energy."

"We must get the infrastructure right in Kent in the mid Nineties."

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17/91

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Long-term projects include the complete transformation of Folkestone's harbour and waterfront areas, extensive redevelopment of the town centre, a major new housing development programme and a high-tech business

park outside the town. The Shepway towns are ideally situated between seaside and countryside, a delightful environment in which to live and work. And, of course, with Folkestone the site of the Eurotunnel terminal, Shepway is the natural choice if you're looking to locate, expand or relocate your business.

To find out more about an exciting

future that has already begun, write to Christine Taylor, Shepway Marketing Department, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY.



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# Growing low for high profits

The garden of England is using modern techniques to squeeze more productivity out of its ancient orchards, Bill Cater writes

Few advertising men set about promoting Kent without calling it the "garden of England". Not least of the county's attractions is its beauty: orchard, hop garden and meadow, downland and woodland, field and river, sea-coast and prosperous old villages make it a good place to live and work.

If Kent is still a garden, and flourishing, it is because many Kent farmers are horticulturalists, gardeners on a large scale. The most prosperous — some say the only paying — form of farming today is horticulture. It keeps average farm incomes above the disaster level of other counties, though prosperity, along with soil quality, favours east against west Kent.

Prosperity has been achieved by advances in productivity. Diversification is likely to make Kent more of a garden than ever, with the blue of flax flowers, the brightness of evening primrose, and perhaps sunflowers as well, replacing some overproduced cereals or sheep-crowded meadows now their boom days are over.

These flowers, grown to meet the demand for oils, of which — barring the olive-oil lake — there is no European surplus, could be prosperity for the future. Meanwhile, Kent's blossom comes from its orchards. Kent produces about 60 per cent of Britain's home-grown apples and pears, and is doing so on less land with less labour than before. A few years ago apple

trees would have been planted at about 400 to the acre. Today an apple grower will expect to plant 1,200 to the acre. On experimental acres 4,000 apple trees are thriving, and in at least one orchard 10,000 trees to the acre have been planted.

These trees will make younger, smaller but more productive orchards. Where apple trees were once expected to last 40 years, a grower will now expect to replace them after 15, for the best apples come from young trees. Supermarkets, the governing customer, demand nothing but perfect fruit.

The same small-is-beautiful development is affecting cherry and plum orchards. Old-style trees might be 40ft tall; tall trees mean high labour costs. New varieties are half the size, with bigger fruit. A 20ft tree, not yet as small as growers would like, is still easier to prune and pick, and can be netted against birds, its worst enemies. Kent's dwindling stock of cherry trees is picking up again.

Another old-established crop enjoying a revival is the Kent cob-nut. Early in the century there were 7,000 "plais" — nut plantations. Today, 80 commercial growers, almost all in Kent, are expanding acreages. Better marketing ensured there were fresh Kent cobs in every

supermarket chain but one last year.

Hop farmers may follow the orchard practice of growing lower for higher profits. Traditionally, the hop vine grows high on expensive, tall poles strung with wires and strings. Because of world over-production, it is 10 years since any reasonable profit has been made on hops, say growers.

**The supermarkets' dilemma is how to reconcile demand for unblemished fruit with growing green public insistence on unsprayed crops**

Lager, now fashionable, uses only two hops for every three in traditional beer, and brewers now get more flavour and bitterness out of each hop. Many continental lagers are brewed here under licences specifying that German or Czech hops must be used — an odd exception, it seems to Kent growers, to EC rules against national trade prejudices.

Fortunately, German growers are showing interest in British

breeds of hop, even selling some trial crops to German brewers, which might overcome hop nationalism.

Scientists at Wye College, in Kent, are developing a hop that is happy to grow only hedge high. Lower hops could cut costs and might be safer from insect pests.

Biological control using insect predators to control hop pests failed when the pest-devourers were found reluctant to climb as high as a traditional hop; lower plants could be safer.

Biological pest control is being used to good effect on soft fruit and tomatoes. The largest glasshouse in Europe, at Graveney in Kent, covers 40 acres and dispatched a million 6kg (13lb) boxes of tomatoes last year — all produced without pesticides, good insects controlled the bad.

David Butterworth, the National Farmers' Union horticulture adviser for the region, sees biological control as the answer to a supermarkets' dilemma: how to reconcile a perceived demand for unblemished fruit with growing "green" public insistence on unsprayed crops.

"Even while the shops' demand for perfect fruit has been putting pressure on for more pesticides, our farmers have managed to reduce their use of

sprays to only 12.5 per cent of the recommended rates," he says. "This was initiated by growers — few chemical companies work to reduce demand."

Growers fear, however, that if supermarkets maintain their demand for totally unblemished fruit, they — and the public — could fall victim to less scrupulous overseas growers using sprays banned in Britain. Imported fruit and vegetables are hardly ever tested for these banned sprays, Mr Butterworth says.

The opening of the Channel Tunnel and the dropping of European barriers worries Kent farmers because of the possible spread of animal and plant diseases. "We import a new pest or disease every year from our EC partners," Mr Butterworth says.

Observers believe many small-to-middling farms, mainly in the west of the county, keep going on subsidies — not from the EC but from the pay packets of farmers' wives. Selling odd farm outbuildings for conversion to houses has helped save some under-capitalised farms. The converted east house is ubiquitous.

When middle-sized farms come on the market they are frequently split: the bulk of the land sold to make a neighbouring bigger farm bigger still, the farmhouse sold with a lesser amount of land for hobby farming, odd cottages with an acre or two for Fiona's pony.



Cob-nuts: John Cannon (left) and David Butterworth reviving an old trade

## 'Tatty' Dover polishes its act

Tourists who treat the town simply as a gateway are being tempted to stay

Going after tourism is like selling the family house: accustomed things, comfortable or at least accepted and familiar, suddenly must be looked at with a new eye and the question asked: will strangers like it?

There have been a lot of these painful examinations going on in the potential tourist towns of Kent in the past couple of years in Dover, for example, which bravely published a report into its own future possibilities and present failings.

The town itself, the report says, must be clean, attractive and inviting, especially for the pedestrian, with good hotels, restaurants, shopping and entertainments.

"Dover currently has a bad image — poor shopping, inadequate coach and car parking, tatty feel to the town, poor standards of catering and below-par accommodation," it says.

Such painful home truths are accepted as necessary if the towns and their surrounding countryside are to make the most of their considerable but under-used assets, a list which starts with items such as more than 50 castles, 78 museums and two zoos.

Kent's holiday towns fell from favour with the coming of cheap flights to guaranteed sunshine abroad, but tourism is still a considerable industry, employing about 75,000 people in the county. The number of visitors is growing — five million according to the latest figures, compared with four million in 1980. In 1988, they spent about £300 million.

Kent's problem is that, to many people, it is a gateway rather than a place to stay. More than half its tourists come from the southeast of Britain. In 1988, Dover port had 15 million passengers, but few of them lingered in Dover. A new anxiety is that, with the opening of the Channel Tunnel, more people still will arrive in Kent only to be whisked straight through the county to the attractions of London, Bath, or Edinburgh — but not Folkestone, Ramsgate, or Herne Bay.

The tunnel, Dover believes, threatens 4,500 to 6,000 jobs in the ports. Another 2,000 jobs may go in the freight forwarding industry as a result of the single European market, and this in a part of the county which had already lost about 2,000 jobs with the end of Kent's coal industry. Dover calculates it needs 8,000 new jobs in the next ten years.

In the longer term, the town

needs to attract new industries and business. But in the short term, Dover calculates that tourism could provide 1,500 jobs, at a third of the cost of providing a similar number of jobs in industry.

Dover district council has good cash reserves, and the benefit of a former marketing executive of the British Tourist Authority, John Moir, as the chief executive. The council has invested £14 million in a tourist attraction, the White Cliffs Experience, hiring John Sunderland, the designer of the Jorvik Viking heritage centre at York, to put Dover's history on show in a large, walk-through exhibition.

Included are a reconstructed section of the Victorian port, a Forties street after a raid, a Roman landing, and a Napoleonic wars Martello tower where robots will tell Dover's story of medieval days.

Another £8 million is being spent on sprucing up the "tatty" town, cliff-top walks are being set out, and a guide prepared advertising country attractions, from gardens to vineyards and gliding, golf and sea angling.

Along the coast a few miles west is Shepway, a name bestowed by local government reorganisation and one which few visitors are likely to hear on local lips, though they will find Folkestone, the chief town of the district. Shepway is sensibly promoting itself as "the garden coast", including Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh. Folkestone is providing grants to help improve the town centre.

The east Kent coast suffers from other problems. Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Margate are quiet resorts these days, too quiet. When the holiday-makers went away to Spain, the many small hotels were unable to invest to attract other visitors.

The East Kent Tourism Development Action Programme, known as Discover East Kent, is gathering support for programmes to revitalise the area.

Indirectly, the greatest help to the east may be the transforming of the Thanet Way — the A299 from the M2 to the Isle of Thanet — into a dual carriageway.

The old Manston Airport, renamed Kent International, will be within easier reach of London. As a Nato airfield, it was equipped with a long runway suitable for big jets.

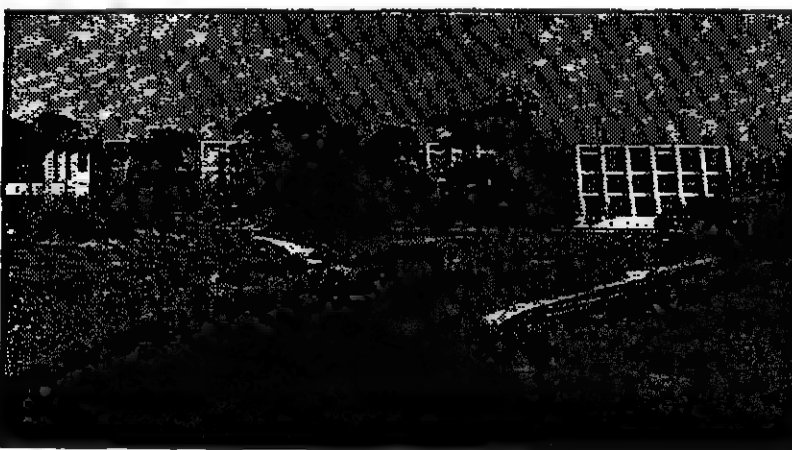
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Eureka is based on Trinity College's internationally-renowned Cambridge Science Park. As such it has a pedigree second to none and will be a prestige location.

It will reflect the high standards of design, landscaping, management and academic liaison which has placed Cambridge Science Park at the forefront of such development. In addition campus-style general offices will be available.



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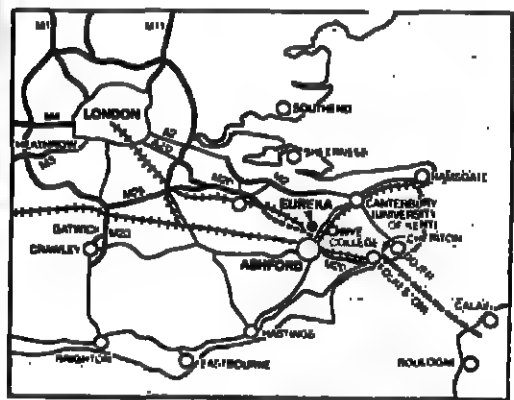
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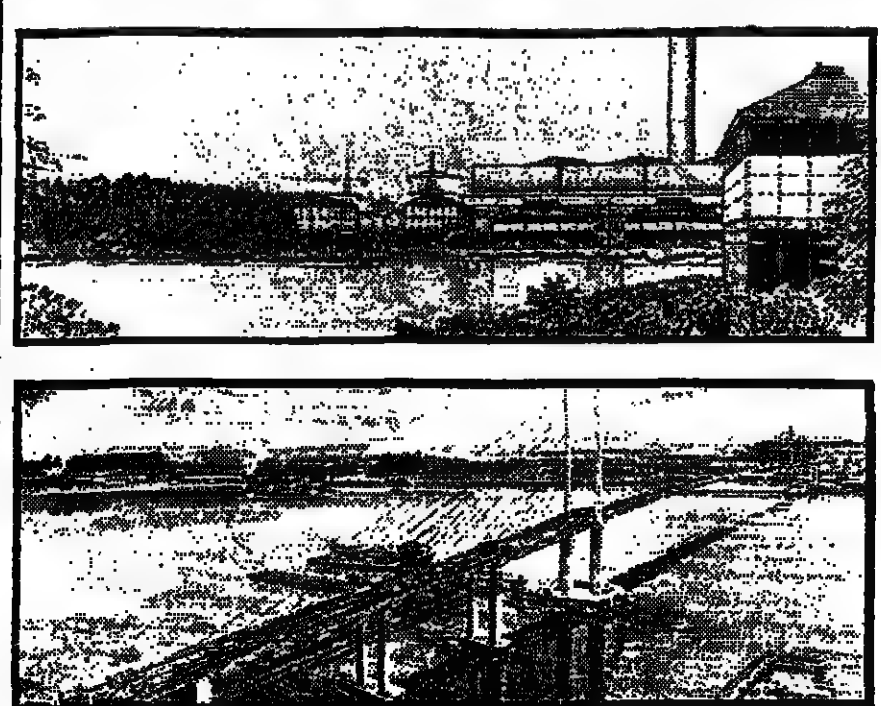
At Junction 9 of the London-Folkestone M20 Motorway, Eureka occupies a prime location within one mile of Ashford town centre. This is the most promising growth point in Britain, straddling the major road and rail routes to and from the Continent.

The International Passenger Terminal for the Channel Tunnel will be situated at Ashford, with the Channel Ports nearby. Ashford will become the inland focus for services and business.

Eureka is in a commanding position within this nexus of communications — yet pleasantly situated in attractive grounds with mature trees, three small lakes, an hotel and golf course alongside and fine views of the North Downs.



## DARTFORD'S DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The Dartford Local Plan is now available by telephoning Dartford (0322) 343252 during office hours, or write to: The Public Relations Office, Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR



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Dover provides the most direct access to the key markets in Europe. And with Eurotunnel's new freight terminal on its doorstep, the area has become the focal point of Britain's rail and road systems.

For a closer view of what Dover offers your company, call Roger Mudge on 0304 821199 or write to him at Dover District Council, Honeywood Rd, Whitfield, Dover, Kent CT16 3PJ.

Poor image: Dover is in search of an improved identity











# Car that caused a marriage breakdown

For 21 years they were the perfect match. Now the Japanese giant and its British dealer are fighting in court, Kevin Eason writes

The story reads like the script for a blockbuster television series. One of Britain's most remarkable entrepreneurs is preparing to do battle across the courtroom with the might of Japanese big business.

They are arguing over a financial compensation settlement with enough might to make up a telephone number, as well as determining the future of one of the country's biggest networks of car dealers.

On one side is Nissan Motor Manufacturing, the company that has invested £700 million in a factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear, employing almost 3,000 people and aiming to become the fourth biggest British motor manufacturer behind Rover, Ford and Vauxhall.

On the other is Octav Botnar, the reclusive millionaire and the man who, 21 years ago, gambled that Japanese cars could be a serious alternative to the then dominant European marques by importing Datsuns, now better known as Nissans.

He set up Nissan UK with what he says was an exclusive distribu-

tion deal and in his first year he sold only 1,200 cars. His faith in the Japanese runabouts was repaid by customers who flocked to cars that had little glamour but were reliable, unlike many of their British rivals of the time.

Now Japanese cars are accepted as technological leaders and Nissan UK has grown into an established dealer chain, employing 12,000 workers directly or indirectly. Last year's sales were more than 106,000 cars.

Both Nissan UK and Nissan Motor confirmed yesterday, however, that it will be "business as usual" whatever the outcome of their legal wrangle. Customers are being assured that all warranties are safe and supplies of cars will be guaranteed. They may, however, have to move to a new dealership if their old showroom moves over to another brand.

In the middle of this business war are the 380 dealers, who have spent £250 million upgrading their showrooms with no idea whether they will still be selling Nissans this time next year, and tens of thousands of Nissan owners and potential buyers who must be

wondering what on earth is happening.

Nissan Motor says: "There will be no problems at all for Nissan customers. All warranties remain valid and we will still be selling cars as normal. Nobody should be concerned about the future of Nissan, which has invested millions of pounds in Britain."

Although most buyers will not have realised it, they collected their cars from Nissan UK, which buys cars from Nissan, the manufacturer, whether they are from Japan or the British factory, and then passes them on to the dealer network.

For more than two decades the arrangement operated, but it became an uneasy alliance and finally broke down at the end of last year when the two sides could not agree on prices for the new Primera. The company hoped that this car, built at Washington as the vital follow-up to the Bluebird model, would establish Nissan in Europe.

Mr Botnar's Nissan UK said the car was too expensive against such rivals as the Vauxhall Cavalier and



Irreconcilable differences: the price of the new British-built Primera was the sticking point between Nissan and Octav Botnar (above)



Ford Sierra. The factory said the price was right, as the Primera was a new model with high-value specifications, which made it a technological leader.

The growing acrimony between the two sides became apparent to those who looked on. The press launch for the Primera was close to confusion as both companies issued invitations for the same event and both had their own press releases.

Signs of the split were more

obvious when Mr Botnar gave a party at the Savoy in London to celebrate 21 years of Nissan UK. Nobody from the factory or main Nissan Motor business was there.

Mr Botnar finally confirmed that the relationship was over last week, when he started legal action to sue Nissan Motor for ending the distribution agreement. The figure for which he is suing is not known but estimates put it at hundreds of millions of pounds.

Existing dealers have been

panic-stricken by events, not knowing what their future holds, and the argument has affected sales of the Primera. Only 2,500 out of 6,700 ordered in the last quarter of 1990 were sold, although that position improved last month when about 1,000 Primersas left the showrooms.

One question, nevertheless, will have to be asked. How will Nissan manage to replace Mr Botnar's vast network of dealers?

Nissan Motor is confident, say-

ing it has had enormous interest from dealers wanting to take on its franchise. Britain also accounts for about a fifth of all European sales, which means Nissan has a huge dependence on what happens in the UK market.

As output from Washington is growing gradually, Nissan Motor will be eager to settle its dispute with Mr Botnar to smooth the path to fulfilling its ambitions as an important European-based manufacturing and sales operation.

## His master's choice but not the wife's

THE badge of the BMW has long been synonymous with the image of the fast, high-quality, motorway cruiser beloved of businessmen and usually envied by the lesser mortals who can only watch it purring past.

The third generation 5-series range, launched in 1988, maintains the tradition, winning a handful of accolades but, more significantly, scoring success in the most telling contest of sales.

In spite of competition from rival companies such as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Saab, Volvo and Rover, more than 500,000 of the new 5-series have been sold in the past two years throughout Europe.

The sales pace shows no sign of slackening as the 5-series leaves an indelible print on the minds of middle managers, who make the BMW the marque to which they aspire.

Take the BMW 525iSE and the reasons immediately become apparent. This is a car with a heart that can offer cruiserweight 192



Quality, but rear tight squeeze: the BMW 525iSE, at £24,200

gearbox form, the 24-valve, 2.5-litre has a top speed of 140mph, leaving plenty of power in reserve for overtaking.

Inside, there are pros and cons, which mean potential buyers should take a test drive before deciding.

For example, power steering is light and accurate at any speed, particularly for the arm-contorting problem of parking, when a dex-

terous touch can be vital. The boot is cavernous and has a low lip, which makes loading a lowly from a baby buggy to the weekly shopping extremely easy.

However, the passenger cabin is definitely a problem of "them and us". There is plenty of room for front passengers but little leg room in the rear. Those with children will have to weigh up the benefits of a 5-series carefully, as the rear

belts seemed reluctant to hold a child seat firmly enough for peace of mind, and mothers sitting in the back may find it cramped.

By contrast, the driving position is excellent, even for somebody with my 6ft 4in length.

I found the dashboard instruments confusing. The ventilation, heating and stereo buttons created a crowded maze, leading to fumbling fingers on the move.

Quality, however, is beyond reproach. The doors close with the reassuring clunk that makes BMWs such sought-after models.

**BMW 525iSE ESSENTIALS**  
Price: £24,200. Extras include auto gearbox, £1,315; metallic paint £472; on-board computer £379; electric front seat adjustment £926; and headlight wash £310.  
Engine: 24-valve, six-cylinder, 2.5-litre, for 192 bhp, through auto or manual gearbox.  
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 9.9 seconds, top speed 140mph, fuel economy 20.2 mpg around town.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

## Crash capital's peril for drivers

DRIVERS in London have a one-in-50 chance of having an accident that will force them into hospital, according to research by The Insurance Service, the insurance company. London accidents killed 460 motorists and injured 52,319 in 1989, giving an accident risk of 2 per cent, compared with the national average of 1.41 per cent.

Other "high risk" areas are Surrey (1.92 per cent), Cambridgeshire (1.82) and Essex (1.68). Avon is the lowest for accidents, with a 1 per cent rate.

The areas where drivers are most at risk, according to The Insurance Service: 1 Greater London 2 per cent, 2 Surrey 1.92, 3 Cambridgeshire 1.82, 4 Essex 1.68, 5 Norfolk 1.64, 6 Northamptonshire 1.62, 7 Warwickshire 1.61, 8 Humberside 1.60, 9 North Yorkshire 1.58, 10 Nottinghamshire 1.57.

### Sales casualty

THE bad news gets worse. Fears for a prolonged Gulf war and recession are forcing down car sales in the United States, where makers such as Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and BMW have traditionally had good profits. Sales are already

### ROADWISE

down by 22 per cent and analysts predict the market could fall to 1983 levels of 13 million or below.

### Pennies well spent

HERE is one guide that frequent travellers may appreciate, because there are no services on the recently opened M40. That has led the AA to advise motorists to "go" before they set out. For those who really do need a toilet or meal break, the Sunday Times M40 guide provides a list of places to



visit along the 90-mile route between London and the West Midlands. The pamphlet costs £1.25, including postage and packing, from Chiltern House Publishers, Honeywood House, Avon Dassett, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV33 0AH.

### Jaguar jump

JAGUAR, now laying off workers and struggling to meet sales targets, is raising prices by an average of 3.4 and 4.5 per cent on some cars. A four-litre XJ6 will cost £27,900, but prices of XJ-S models are unchanged.

### Pep for Porsche

PORSCHE, despite its cutback in Britain to cope with the recession, increased profits by 26 per cent and sales by 8 per cent to 31,235 cars in 1990.

### Mystery destination?

ARTHUR Large, the RAC's chief executive, who revamped the business to compete with the AA, has resigned. The RAC will not say where he is to work.

## CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

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H. 5 months old 4,000 miles. Alloy wheels. Alarm. Preset condition. 19,900 for quick sale.  
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**GOLF GTI**  
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1989 (G) GOLF GTI 16V. Finished in Black with Power Steering, Sunroof, Central Locking, 9,000 Miles. £18,995.  
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1987 (D) GOLF GTI. Finished in Silver Metallic with 41,000 Miles. £25,995.  
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# Tempering can lead Nicholls to double

By MANDARIN  
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WHILE the country's grass courses remain frozen, racing continues to take place on the Fibresand surface at Southwell where the experienced Yorkshire-based jockey David Nicholls has found prospects of landing a double today on Tempering (1.55) and Cosimo (3.25).

In going up on Tempering to win the Gamston Handicap, I am banking on this David Chapman-trained five-year-old being as effective over two miles as he has shown himself to be already over shorter distances.

To fulfil that requirement, Nicholls will certainly need to plumb the depths of his 16 years experience as a jockey because Tempering is unquestionably an outstanding character, whose style of racing is to attack from the front.

While those tactics have proved highly effective on four occasions over 11 and 12 furlongs on this surface already this year, there has to be a doubt as to whether they will succeed over this trip.

Knowing that it is a half-brother to the 1987 Ascot Gold Cup winner Pagan by Kite, whose stock have got further at the highest level than any breeding pundit might have imagined when he was retired to stud, I think the risk is worth taking, especially knowing what a revelation Tempering has turned out to be since he started racing on this particular surface.

Also, his trainer has shown that he possesses a knack when dealing with horses running in quick succession.

## Von Cadek not ruled out yet for National

THE American Grand National hopeful Von Cadek will not be withdrawn from the race at the first fortnight stage next week, despite having suffered an injury that may rule him out of the Autumn course.

Von Cadek, who was found to have fractured a splint bone in his near-foot, had his operation on Wednesday when the splint was successfully removed.

His owner Margaret Worrall reported: "I went very well and the horse was up immediately. The splint was taken out so that it doesn't cause any further problems."

We have decided we are going to leave him here in the National and review the situation when the next cut-off date comes round. I can't comfortably say that he will run, but it is just in case he makes a quick recovery and we are able to put him straight back into training, I am an incurable optimist."

The first fortnight stage for the National is next Tuesday with a further deadline on March 19.

Von Cadek, who won two out of his four races during his spell in the Hennessy Knight earlier this season, was allotted 10st 4lb in the handicap when the weights were published earlier this week.

Mrs Worrall's amateur rider son Patrick has been doing splendidly well in the Hennessy Knight and is expected to be returned to Maryland but would still have to put up with the weight of the ride at Ascot.

Biggan has been backed down to 20-1 from 25-1 with Corals for the Grand National. The same firm have cut Native Mission to 10-1 from 14-1 in their Triumph Hurdle list.

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# Sale of Sandown group could raise £30m for industry

By RICHARD EVANS

THE sale of Sandown Park, Epsom and Kempton Park racecourses could raise at least £30 million for the racing industry's depleted coffers, according to informed estimates yesterday.

Various figures, ranging up to £50 million, were being bandied about after Sir John Sparrow, chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, told MPs he was attracted by the idea of the board selling the three courses it owned - provided their racing rights were protected.

The Levy Board bought Epsom and Sandown for £15 million in 1969 and acquired Kempton the following year for £800,000. The three popular outer London tracks were purchased to safeguard their future as racecourses and are managed successfully by United Racecourses (UR), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Levy Board.

The precise value of the three courses depends on the timing of any sale, Sir John, giving evidence to the Commons affairs select committee enquiry into the levy system, indicated the commercially appropriate amount to sell may be some way away, given the state of the economy.

The Levy Board will consider the idea of selling the courses at its annual strategy meeting on February 15. It was widely stressed yesterday no action would be taken until the board decided whether to investigate further the idea.

"This is a very embryonic stage. It will be discussed by the board in two weeks' time," Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the Levy Board, said. "The future of the racecourses must be secure. The most important thing is that we have to try and realise the capital value without jeopardising the future of the industry."

He warned against thinking any sale represented a potential gold mine for racing. The value would be related to the cash flow from the various activities at the courses.

Non-racing activities, such as conferences, receptions, zoos, and a nine-hole golf course, contribute significantly to United Racecourses' income. Sandown is used 300 days a year, Kempton 100 days a year, and Epsom will have considerable non-racing potential when its new stands and improvements are completed.

Sir John's remarks sparked off intense speculation as to who would be interested in purchasing three of Britain's best-known racecourses.

A management buy-out by UR is a strong possibility. The company has an excellent record for managing the trio of courses. It has successfully adopted a strategy of treating each course as an entertainment centre. Although racing is the predominant activity, other facilities at Sandown and Kempton are used by local people while the ability to stage conferences and exhibitions attracts customers from further afield.

Tim Neill, UR's go-ahead managing director, and directors such as Sir Alastair Burt are thought to be keen to buy the courses they run, provided the financial burden is not too severe.

A second option could be for Racecourse Holdings Trust (RHT) to buy the courses by itself, or to be involved jointly with United Racecourses. RHT was established in 1964 to acquire and preserve Chesham racecourse, and now has seven further courses in its care. The company, set up as a trust, became a subsidiary of the Jockey Club in 1969.

If the Levy Board decides to proceed with Sir John's idea, it will have to work out how the courses' racing activities can be adequately protected.

The Epsom and Walton Downs Regulation Act 1964 offers considerable protection to the famous home of the Derby and the Oaks. No such legislative safeguards exist for the courses at Esher and Sunbury.

# Headless chicken style does not suit the dragon

By GERALD DAVIES

THIS has been a critical week for Ron Waldron as the Welsh manager must wonder, having kept with the same team over the last two matches, how far must he wield the axe and start chopping again.

The team's announcement has been delayed until questions have been answered on the playing fields on Sunday.

There are those who wish that he would reconsider his philosophy of the game. Those who subscribe to this view feel that the Neath style of play is all very well at club level, but there is little hope for it to be transferred successfully to the international arena.

Which, it is assumed, is what is happening to the national team. Suddenly, the "Neath style" is meant to encompass a unique vision of the game. The catch-all phrase has entered the rugby lexicon and in Wales, when applied to the Welsh team, is seen curiously as an overwhelming weakness.

The right of Kevin Phillips, the hooker, snatching the ball to take an endless series of penalties for his club and charging, as someone suggested, like "a headless chicken" towards the opposition, has come to epitomise the Neath style of play.

The "Neath style" is reduced to all that comes, wrongly, to define it: a game played at a frantic pace without much thought.

If there are faults in the Neath style - and regular readers of this column will understand by now what this might be, hasty and all - it is not in their attempts to have a fluid game. In this respect, and in their complete command of the club scene of the last five years, they are far from Welsh rugby to wear a red face of embarrassment.

Neath, like it or not, have tried to lift Welsh rugby out of the doldrums. It is the slowness of other clubs to redefine their game, to move away from those complacent days of the static maul and the percentage game, to remain insular and blind to other developments, that has allowed Welsh rugby to be in the plight it finds itself.

My philosophy of the game is very similar to that of the Scottish team, and the way they played on Saturday," Waldron says. "They were fast, mobile, at stand-off and centre, the scrum has succeeded."

Major surgery is likely to follow so that each row will see changes. The tightening of the scrum can be worked on, but the scrum needs a specialist mid-of-the-line jumper where Gareth Llewellyn has not managed to win his share of possession.

With the front five not functioning solidly, it has been difficult to analyse the efficiency of the back row. The experiment with Arnold at No. 8 seems to have failed. Waldron will presumably put the Swansea player back in the second row. The call for the return of Phil Davies at No. 8 is clamorous, although he is not in the squad.

Waldron: the Neath way

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get the right combination of players to play that style of game.

Here they should seriously reconsider their plans. For Waldron, the deepest concern is the failure of the scrum to develop from that which was promising in the game against England, England, for their part, say that they relaxed and did not concern themselves overmuch with the Welsh scrum. If this is the case, they should not concern themselves overmuch either with believing those premature comparisons with the All Blacks.

The All Blacks remedy such weaknesses on the field at the time, not offer excuses afterwards. England, although going through a strong period, have yet to win any prizes for their potential. No triple crown, no grand slam. And time for them is running out.

"I was disappointed," Waldron says, "that we had five very bad scrums at Murrayfield. From three of them Scotland scored tries. This was disastrous for us because we had thought we had formed a platform upon which to build. The gamble we have taken in certain positions has not come off, whereas, say, at stand-off and centre, the gamble has succeeded."

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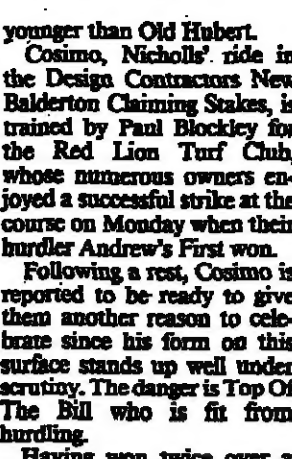
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Chapman: two-mile test for Tempering

Having carried 10st 7lb to victory already, today's burden should not prove a problem for him as Tempering is concerned.

However, those who prefer to put their trust in proven stamina will understandably opt for Old Hubert rather than either of the other recent winners in the field, Steppy Lane or Celtic Bob.

Old Hubert can claim to have won the Chester Cup over even further in his time, besides a similar race over Kite's course and distance in December. Furthermore, his weight will also be reduced by the 7lb allowance that his 18-year-old apprentice rider Brett Doyle claims. Having landed the first double of his career at Lingfield last Saturday, Doyle will be brimful with confidence.

However, I feel that it will be Tempering's limbs that will prove the stronger on this occasion since he is five years

younger than Old Hubert. Cosimo, Nicholls' ride in the Design Contractors New Balderton Claiming Stakes, is trained by Paul Blockley for the Red Lion Turf Club, whose numerous owners enjoyed a successful strike at the course on Monday when their hurdler Andrew's First won.

Following a rest, Cosimo is reported to be ready to give them another reason to celebrate since his form on this surface stands up well under scrutiny. The danger is Top Of The Bill who is fit from huffing.

Having won twice over a mile on the track since the turn of the year, Will He Or Won't He should be in an obliging frame of mind again for the Old Clipseone Claiming Stakes even though Debutant should prove harder to beat this time now that she has a 7lb advantage for the six lengths that separated them previously.

Danny Blanchflower, my selection for the Halam Handicap over seven furlongs, has already won over the years a mile and distance this year. His recent close third behind Miss Sampana and Eucalyptus was also entirely adequate. Danny Blanchflower also has the ideal draw.

As far as the Mansfield Handicap is concerned, I am content to leave the probable outcome in the hands of Alex Greaves, the undisputed queen of Southwell, astride Macconachie, who was beaten only a neck by Cribella last time out.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 1.25 Cosimo Flyer.

FLAT racing returns to Cagness-Mer today, provided there are no further snowfalls, and British trainers could be on the mark in two races.

The Queen's four-year-old City Church Missionary (Guy Guimard) will be hoping to gain her first victory in the turf-furling Prix du Docteur Gazezard.

The royal filly does not face an easy task as Marston's stable companions Sentimentale and Tanson and the useful Parisian performers Atank and Fabuleuse Cherie, will guarantee this will be a stiff test for Lord Hunsdon's prospect.

Alex Scott's first runner here was second on Sunday and he will be hoping that Alton Bay (William Mould) can go one better in the Prix d'Alaccio.

recovery and we are able to put him straight back into training, I am an incurable optimist."

The first fortnight stage for the National is next Tuesday with a further deadline on March 19.

Von Cadek, who won two out of his four races during his spell in the Hennessy Knight earlier this season, was allotted 10st 4lb in the handicap when the weights were published earlier this week.

Mrs Worrall's amateur rider son Patrick has been doing splendidly well in the Hennessy Knight and is expected to be returned to Maryland but would still have to put up with the weight of the ride at Ascot.

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## Prospects poor as two more meetings are lost

THE Newbury and Uttoxeter meetings, scheduled for tomorrow, have already been called off 10am today because of snow.

The all-weather fixture at Southwell today has a good chance of going ahead. The clerk of the course Jane Groves yesterday reported: "The track is absolutely perfect. We will not keep the access roads clear during the night, but that could depend on how much snow we have."

Four of the six point-to-point fixtures scheduled for tomorrow are from casualties, and the two remaining meetings, the East Cornwall and Haydon, are subject to inspections later today.

Monday's meeting at Plumpton is also in doubt and the track will be inspected at 10am today.

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# Olympic ideal that remains a dream

By Bob Scott

PETER Price, the deputy leader of Sheffield City Council, wrote a letter to *The Times* recently on "bidding for the Olympic Games" and, as you would expect of a sound northern pragmatist, he was dismissive of the notion of a London bid.

But London, and the state of its possible bid, was not the point of his letter. The idea he put forward was that the nation would best be served by a bid on behalf of the whole of the north of England.

In my view, he proposed too wide a spread, but that does not destroy his central thesis.

Price pointed out that there were several new Olympic facilities being completed in Sheffield for the World Student Games in July and that between them the great northern cities, from Liverpool to Newcastle,

could host an Olympic Games without huge new spending on infrastructure.

He also made the point that the cost of the new stadiums and arenas that would have to be built could be shared between various communities. This would have the benefit of spreading the expenditure and being more useful to more communities after the Games were over.

It is an idea that has had a certain amount of airing over the years, but I think the time has come when it should be seriously considered. I must point out that the only way it can go forward formally, for the next few years at least, is through the medium of Manchester's bid.

I say this not to seize the moral high ground but because the only way a British bid can go forward for the year 2000 is through Liverpool to Newcastle, or

will in part be up to Manchester to consider whether it should spread its bid further afield.

At the moment, Manchester's bid is essentially a bid for the northwest of England. Liverpool and Chester play important parts in the overall scheme, with four sports in Liverpool and five in the stunning countryside around Chester.

The centre of the bid, and this must remain, will be at the heart of the motorway network just to the west of Manchester.

We were concerned when we submitted our bid for 1996 that the distance between the Liverpool arena and the village in Manchester would worry the voting members. Not at all.

The travel time was what concerned them and this we regularly achieve in 25 minutes. Most members recognised that the Games were

so big that a little bit of "spreading" was not only allowed, it was desirable to prevent the kind of congestion that is expected in Barcelona.

What the country must consider, particularly the British Olympic Association (BOA) and the Sports Council, is whether a spread to Sheffield in the east to match a spread to Liverpool in the west is a good idea.

Newcastle and Nottingham, and certainly Birmingham, are too far away, but Sheffield is close.

There will be two particular problems. First is the absolute Olympic rule laid down in the charter that the Games are awarded to a city. It does not matter that we all know that the Los Angeles Games were really the Games of Southern California.

There is no point in Britain entering a race and then

immediately trying to change the rules before the "off". It is the civic authority of one city, in conjunction with the National Olympic Committee of that country, that bids for the Games.

The second problem is the problem of the "ideal" of the compact Games, where all the sports venues are within easy distance of the village. This has never been, and never will be, achieved, but for some it remains the dream.

Even though it would probably be quicker to travel from Manchester to Sheffield than it would be to go from the village to the main stadium in Barcelona, if the traffic is anything like it was last year, we will have to overcome the criticism of dispersal.

The advantages could be enormous. First, Sheffield has some genuinely Olympic facilities and it would per-

haps be foolish to replicate all of them only 35 minutes away. Second, with proper planning and burden sharing, which must be discussed with the BOA and the Sports Council, the whole of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire could enthusiastically get behind a bid which would truly represent the country.

The government might like it, the sports authorities might like it, but what we have to do is persuade the International Olympic Committee to like it.

The overwhelming need is for people of good will, who have the national health of sport at heart, to come together to discuss such a plan and create the proper strategy. Price's letter may have started something.

Bob Scott is the chairman of the Manchester Olympic Bid 2000 Committee.

## SKIING

# Beleaguered Russian says downhill has turned the corner

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, VAL D'ISÈRE, FRANCE

A YEAR before the Olympic downhill, and after two training runs on the spectacular "la Face" course, designed by Bernhard Russi, racers are fiercely divided about joining a new era of downhill racing.

The veterans raised on speed-induced adrenalin say it is not a real downhill, and the technical skiers are expecting glory days on the most spectacular 2,905 metres of downhill racing available.

Russi, an Olympic gold medal winner and world downhill champion of the early Seventies, has carved "la Face" into the sheer rock of Bellevue mountain, allowing spectators below to follow 70 per cent of the race.

But the pitch of the mountain is so steep that Russi has used 36 curves, unloved by the speed merchants used to charging classics like Wengen at speeds of up to 140km.

"You could speed it up by shaving the jumps, but the character of the course will not - and must not - change," Russi said. "If you want to hold on to downhill racing, then you have to go in this direction."

Russi said the course was designed by Bernhard Russi, racers are fiercely divided about joining a new era of downhill racing.

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But the pitch of the mountain is so steep that Russi has used 36 curves, unloved by the speed merchants used to charging classics like Wengen at speeds of up to 140km.

"Downhillers today can go much tighter into the curves than even five years ago. They have more physical strength, better technique and better material," Russi said.

"This is one of the most difficult downhills, but one of the safest. But it is also the one that leaves racers with the most empty legs."

Leonard Stock, of Austria, said it was "no downhill". Daniel Mahrer, of Switzerland, said it was too slow, too steep and had too many curves.

"It is so slow, you can count the spectators on the way down," Mahrer said. But for every groan there was a cheer, and Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, the overall leader in the World Cup, said it was the best downhill he knew. Girardelli was undeterred by a tumble in training on Wednesday.

Rob Boyd, of Canada, and direction," Russi said his course had everything - the "Mausfalle" and Hausbergkante from Kitzbühel and the most challenging parts of Wengen and other classics.

The first of the three Duches of York trophies at the British Services International Alpine championships here was won yesterday when Jenny Davidson, of the Royal Air Force, won her third event, in the super giant slalom, and also took the overall combined title.

The super giant slalom is a new event to the championships, and it was fitting that it should decide the outcome of the women's inter-services competition. Davidson's success not only helped her team to win the new super giant slalom trophy, but also clinched the inter-services trophy.

The super giant slalom course, with some 44 gates and 529 metres of vertical drop in 14 seconds, was described as "testing, especially with fresh snow and temperatures of -30C". The French, this time the newcomers from the Army, again produced the fastest times. Samuel Tissot, who won the giant slalom last Sunday, was skiing at No. 87, but this did not prevent him from taking the men's open super giant slalom trophy.

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Atle Skardal, of Norway, both like the idea of trying something new. "There's not much gliding, but it's boring to glide," Skardal said.

Predictably, training on Tuesday was dominated by the French, with six of their number in the top 15. They raced here last March in their national championships and know the course.

Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, the world downhill champion, and Stefan Eberharter, of Austria, the world super-giant slalom champion, switched to shorter skis and chalked up the fastest times during practice sessions yesterday.

The third run yesterday was abandoned when light snowfall and overcast skies restricted vision on a course particularly vulnerable to weather conditions.

Two World Cup downhills, today and tomorrow, and a super-giant slalom, on Sunday, are planned on "la Face". Racers then have 51 weeks to contemplate its perils before returning to try for the Olympic gold.

Davidson takes a third title

FROM IAN SWEET IN MEGEVE

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## TENNIS



Forcing shot: Paul Hanley in action during the LTA men's tournament at Telford

# Caratti ends Lendl's hopes

MILAN (AFP) - Ivan Lendl was knocked out of the ATP Tour event here yesterday when he was beaten in three sets by Cristiano Caratti, of Italy, in the second round.

Lendl, of Czechoslovakia, defeated by Boris Becker in last year's Australian Open final, lost 6-4, 1-6, 7-6.

Caratti, who reached the quarter-finals at Melbourne before losing to Patrick McEnroe, clinched victory by 7-3 in the third-set tie-break.

RESULTS: First round: Lendl (CZ) to M Lendl (AUS), 7-6, 4-6, 7-6; 2. D Bonington (RAF), 1:52.56; 3. H Hutchison (Army), 1:57.07; 4. C Bonington (RAF), 1:57.49; 5. S Hutchison (Army), 1:57.77; 6. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 7. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 8. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 9. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 10. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77.

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RESULTS: Men's second round: 1. S Tissot (French Air Force), 1:52.12; 2. D Bonington (RAF), 1:52.56; 3. H Hutchison (Army), 1:57.07; 4. C Bonington (RAF), 1:57.49; 5. S Hutchison (Army), 1:57.77; 6. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 7. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 8. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 9. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 10. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77.

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RESULTS: Men's third round: 1. S Tissot (French Air Force), 1:52.12; 2. D Bonington (RAF), 1:52.56; 3. H Hutchison (Army), 1:57.07; 4. C Bonington (RAF), 1:57.49; 5. S Hutchison (Army), 1:57.77; 6. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 7. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 8. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 9. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77; 10. S Hutchison (RAF), 1:57.77.

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# Gascoigne joins the world-weary warriors

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE players who represented England in the World Cup are in danger of burning themselves out, according to the national manager. Graham Taylor notes that almost half of the squad taken to Italy by his predecessor last summer have since shown signs of physical wear and tear.

Paul Gascoigne is carrying the latest piece of evidence which would appear to prove the theory. When he aggravated a groin strain during the 2-0 victory over Cameroon at Wembley on Wednesday night, he became the ninth member of Bobby Robson's group to suffer from a muscular injury. The list is

too long to be a mere coincidence.

John Barnes, Peter Beardsley, Steve Hodge, Steve McMahon, David Platt, Bryan Robson, Trevor Steven and Neil Webb have been victims of similar stress and Taylor is not surprised that they have broken down. The burden they are being asked to bear on and off the pitch is becoming intolerably heavy.

"They played through the World Cup and that gave them the impetus to keep going. Now that the grass is not so green, it is a grind and they are still playing every three or four days. They have had no respite.

"All 22 have been excellent in the way that they have applied themselves. They

have done themselves and their clubs proud, but if you keep hammering away, you will have problems. Like a car, you need a service from time to time and I wonder if we expect too much from them.

"It makes a mockery of the decision to increase the first division to 22 clubs. That was made hastily and rashly. It doesn't help our football. When I was in charge at Aston Villa and we had 44 second-division games, we just didn't have time to practice."

He is equally concerned about the demands being applied from outside the game. Although he recognises the attraction of the lucrative rewards to be gained, he insists that the players should

safeguard their own futures. "They've got to be able to say no. My worry is that football goes down the list of priorities."

Taylor sensed that his side, trapped in the relentless club programme since the last game in Dublin four months ago, could not readjust on Wednesday. "They were rusty. It is not their fault, but they had turned off from international football." During the interval, he offered them a sharp verbal reminder.

He could see that Cameron, whose display was as unimpressive as their conduct before their visit to Wembley, were being treated with excessive generosity. "They were waiting to be turned over, for

God's sake. They were lying down in front of us. You don't give a sucker a second chance.

"I asked why Paul Gascoigne was picking the ball up from the back four when we had three defenders marking one opponent. Why was he taking free kicks on the half-way line? It wasn't a poor performance. It was a comprehensive win, but the Republic of Ireland would have beaten them by six.

"They wouldn't have dwelt at the back and they would have squeezed the life out of them in midfield. For all the possession we had, I was nowhere near satisfied that we hurt them enough. We should have been more decisive and authoritative and been less

reluctant to play the ball quickly."

He has noticed the same deficiency in the previous games against Hungary and Poland. Rather than injecting a sense of urgency into their approach, England have tended to accept the time and the room given to them by the three foreign opponents. Predictably, the Irish were not so accommodating in November.

Nor do they promise to be next month. Taylor foresees the European championship qualifying tie following a similarly hectic pattern. The larger size of the Wembley pitch, he said, "should make a difference and I'll have to pick a team that knows how to cope

with the Irish." His midfield, though, may be less than ideal.

He does not yet know whether Gascoigne, McMahon, Platt or Webb will be available. Nor was he prepared to reveal whether Robson can expect to retain his place and the captaincy and continue his pursuit of 100 caps. Assessments of individual players, he agreed, was difficult on Wednesday.

"It was as though one team had the ball. It was so easy. I would have been most disappointed if anyone couldn't have coped. No England player should have been in any distress."

Simon Barnes, page 37  
New job for Macari, page 37

## Prospect for weekend bleak

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

INCLEMENT weather has severely affected the sporting programme this weekend. Barely a dozen Football League matches were given a realistic chance of going ahead yesterday.

Tomorrow is expected to be the worst day for postponements since January 17, 1987, when 37 of 46 League fixtures were lost to the weather.

In the first division, only the matches at Arsenal, where the under-soil heating has been switched on since Tuesday, Manchester City, home to Chelsea, and Anfield, where Liverpool meet Everton in the Merseyside derby, are expected to take place. Of tonight's programme, just the fourth division match at Torquay, where Cardiff City are the visitors, looks certain to start. On Sunday, Manchester United are confident of staging their Rumbelows Cup semi-final against Leeds United.

Inevitably, this week's Siberian chill has renewed calls for the installation of under-soil heating to be compulsory at first and second division clubs. Jim Greenwood, the Everton chief executive, yesterday said: "All the major grounds should have it. Our latest system of under-soil heating at Goodison cost us £70,000 ten years ago, but it has paid for itself ten times over. In football terms, the cost is chicken-feed for the guarantee of a game going ahead and being played in good conditions."

The idea of avoiding the freeze with a mid-winter break was raised by George Graham, the Arsenal manager, but that would logically take place in December and January, offering no solution to the problem of snow in February or March.

The prospects are equally bleak in Scotland, where the majority of pitches are snow-bound. Under-soil heating at Ibrox and Tannadice should ensure that two premier division matches, involving Rangers and St Mirren and Dundee United and Hibernian, will proceed.

Racing has been even harder hit. There was no racing yesterday. Even though Lingfield's all-weather track was passed fit, the meeting was cancelled after stewards realised that the public would have trouble getting to the track.

The Courage Clubs Championship rugby union programme will also be severely disrupted. Even at venues where the playing surface can be covered, such as Leicester, scheduled to face Orrell, and Gloucester, who play Bath, the freezing temperatures make the prospect of play tomorrow doubtful.

Tomorrow's Heineken League premier division game between Newbridge and Neath has been postponed, and the Glamorgan Wanderers v Llanelly match is extremely doubtful.

A decision will be made today whether the national women's indoor hockey championships, due to be staged at Crystal Palace tomorrow, will go ahead.

A lacrosse tour by an American team ended abruptly at The Parks, Oxford yesterday, when snow and bad light forced abandonment of the game between the English universities and Middlebury College, from Vermont, with the score at 6-6.

## Lawson resigns to help London bid for Olympics

By JOHN GOODBODY

PETER Lawson, the secretary of the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR), yesterday cleared the way for a unified London bid for the Olympic Games when he resigned as a director of London Olympic 2000, one of two rival consortiums from the city.

The extended deadline given by the British Olympic Association (BOA) for a unified bid for the games is midnight tonight, and the two rival groups will meet today with a settlement very likely. Both London Olympic 2000, whose chairman is Sebastian Coe, and the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR), which represents the 33 boroughs and also sport in the capital, are optimistic that London will now oppose Manchester in the voting to become the British nomination for the Games.

Richard Sumray, vice-chairman of the LCSR, which had objected to Lawson's presence with London Olympic 2000, said: "I'm very hopeful that the deal can be struck. I'm optimistic, as indeed I have been for the last few days."

Lawson's walking-out on the London Olympic bid has certainly removed the main obstacle to a settlement. The role of Coe will have to be

settled, but here a compromise should be achieved.

For Lawson, who was one of the original motivators for the bid, the resignation will be a great disappointment, as he will not go forward with London when it seeks the nomination from the BOA in April and, if successful, from the International Olympic Committee in September 1993 when it votes on the location for the 2000 Games.

As secretary of the CCPR, which represents the national governing bodies, including all the Olympic sports, he will still have a valuable role in the background. However, there was widespread opposition to his presence in the foreground, particularly from BOA officers and also from the LCSR, which has to consider the impact of the games on the capital as a whole and not just on British sport. There has been a difference in policies accentuated by the clash in personalities.

In a resignation statement, Lawson said: "In the interests of Great Britain, the British people and British sport, I'm personally withdrawing from involvement in the exciting and imaginative plan to bring the Olympic Games to this country through a sound and viable bid by London."

"I've taken this decision because it has become appar-

ent from press coverage of this matter in recent days as an individual I am perceived by the LCSR to be the stumbling block to bringing the Games to London.

"The perception of me as an obstacle to the development of sport in London is, in my view, unfortunate and inaccurate. Nevertheless, my passionate belief in the ability of London to win the approval of the IOC when it meets in 1993, thus bringing the Games to Britain in the magic year 2000, is of over-riding importance."

Lawson added that he wished London Sport every success in a "unified dynamic and ultimately successful campaign which can triumph if led by Sebastian Coe." He stressed that the CCPR support for London Olympic 2000 was undiminished.

Provided that agreement is finalised today and that one letter is given to the BOA, the next task must be to bring back Tarmac, the construction company, which had lost interest in the bid because of the disputes. It is widely believed that any bid for the Games, which is expected to cost £1 billion, is only likely to succeed if there is cooperation between private finance and local and central government.

Manchester's case, page 36

## Winning grand prix combination

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Reunion with old friend: Mansell at the Williams collection with a car from the past that brought him success

## Mansell back in the old routine

By NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell is back. The British driver yesterday spoke of his eagerness and enthusiasm for the forthcoming Formula One grand prix season. And with a plint in his eye, he admitted that he is already making plans for 1992.

He said: "Frank Williams has already started negotiating with me for '92. You see, we had the 'misfortune' of going fast at a recent test session in France: when someone can take an old car and make it go three seconds a lap faster than it has ever been done before, it makes people sit up and pay attention. So I am looking forward to 1992."

He is delighted at being back in a British team. "When I was in Italy, I never realised how little I understood about what happened around me. I made efforts with the lan-

guage, but I never could be the main reason. But the fans loved me, called me The Lion, because of my fighting spirit. And I am proud of that."

All this from a man who announced his retirement last July, at the British Grand Prix. What happened then? "Conditions weren't right for me then and I have never wanted to just make up numbers." Ironically it was felt at the time that what precipitated his retirement was not so much the going on in the darkened corridors of Ferrari politics, but Frank Williams' interest in Ayrton Senna, the McLaren-Honda driver. Mansell had apparently already done some kind of deal with Williams.

He denies that he ever felt isolated at Ferrari. "That team truly is a family. I made so many good friends there ... but I suppose that I was

frustrated, the language was the main reason. But the fans loved me, called me The Lion, because of my fighting spirit. And I am proud of that."

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## Drug-testing could be extended to club level

By ALAN LORIMER

WITH drug abuse having been identified in the sport, the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) is considering introducing drug-testing at club level next season.

"There is an on-going review on the matter," Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, said yesterday. "We are aware of the situation in other countries. The SRU is completely happy that there is no drug abuse in Scotland."

"The national squad is tested throughout the season at Murrayfield and at away games, and the testing procedure at Murrayfield applies to all our Scotland representative sides at all ages, including the schools sides."

However, Donald Mac-

Leod, one of the SRU's medical advisers, said that testing could prove impractical to administer at club level. "There are ground rules laid down by the Scottish Sports Council for testing procedures which include the provision of certain facilities," he said. "In some cases these are simply not available."

MacLeod is proud of the fact that Scotland was the first country to start testing at all representative levels, but points to what he saw as a palpable omission at the last World Cup. "No tests were actually done during the World Cup," he said. "In fact, the procedures were in place, but analysis of samples proved to be impracticable."

## Hall of Fame denies Rose the place he deserves

By ROBERT KIRLEY

IF STATISTICS were the only gauge, Pete Rose would have been a shoo-in for election to the Baseball Hall of Fame, the highest honour in the game. Known as "Charlie Hustle", the former Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Montreal leader set many records, including 4,256 hits, more than any other player.

Cockey to a fault, he boasted years ago that he would become the first man to be elected unanimously to the Hall of Fame, never mind that Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb and Willie Mays, immortals all, had failed to do so.

The commissioner of baseball, the late A. Bartlett Giamatti, banned Rose from the sport on August 24, 1989, for gambling. Professional sportsmen in the United States who abuse drugs can expect a second chance, sometimes even a third, but in the transatlantic

### COMMENT

ethos, betting on one's sport is a one-time, terminal offence.

Rose finally prompted a unanimous vote this week. Twelve members of the board of the Hall of Fame ruled that banned players are ineligible for "enshrinement" in their museum, which is located in rural Cooperstown, New York. Rose is the only breathing player who is affected. His expulsion is for life, so he is out for good unless the present commissioner, Fay Vincent, reinstates him. This will not happen any time soon.

Rose was released from a prison camp in Illinois last month after serving five months for tax fraud. As part of his sentence, he is working as a PE teacher's assistant in Cincinnati, his hometown.

What should determine fitness for the Hall of Fame? Is it all hits, runs and stolen bases? Should character count? The hall honours some players who were, shall we say, non-church-goers. Cobb, a nasty man at and away from the ball park, was universally despised, but nobody ever disputed his baseball skills.

In September of 1985, Rose was at his peak, chasing Cobb's record of 4,191 career hits. His Reds were in Chicago and he was two hits away from drawing level with the legendary, long-deceased Detroit Tiger. Rather than wait till the club returned home, Rose, the player-manager, put himself in the line-up.

He hit a single in the fifth inning and singled again in the fifth to equal Cobb's record. The Chicago supporters could not believe their good luck. Then it rained. The game

was delayed for two hours and the capacity crowd of 35,000 shrunk to 10,000. When the action resumed, Rose was still playing. In the seventh inning, he struck a hot grounder that the shortstop, Shawon Dunston, barely handled for a put-out. "A foot either way and that would have been a hit," Dunston said. "That would have been the record."

By the ninth inning, his own players were pleading with Rose to save the record attempt for Cincinnati. Where was the glory in getting it in chilly, dark Chicago with only a few soaking supporters left? The score was tied, 5-5, two runners on base and Rose, the consummate competitor, batted again. He made an out but his effort had been earnest. On that day, Rose

was playing for the integrity of the game.

What was not known was that integrity was taking a hammering away from the diamond. Two years later, the evidence against Rose mounted. Giamatti's investigation generated a media extravaganza that overwhelmed the season.

The directors of the Hall of Fame have had their say, and they have legislated bad-boy Pete out of his niche in Cooperstown. Pardon Ty Cobb while he snickers. Perhaps it should be remembered that the hall is a repository for the game's memories and memorabilia, good and bad.

Rose did not hurt baseball, only himself. He belongs in the Hall of Fame for the same reason that Jesse James's six-shooter belongs in the Smithsonian national museum.